

Syria, Norway discuss peace force

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian Defence Minister Lieutenant-General Mustafa Tlas discussed the United Nations' peace-keeping role in South Lebanon with visiting Norwegian Deputy Defence Minister Arne Karstad on Saturday, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. The agency said Mr. Karstad, who arrived in Damascus Friday night, also discussed with Gen. Tlas the situation in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. Norway has a contingent in U.N. Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) which mans a buffer zone between Israel and Syria. Norway also contributes more than 600 troops to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. SANA said Karstad was scheduled to go to South Lebanon Sunday to inspect Norwegian troops there. (See page 2).

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Reagan rejects Kaunda's invitation

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has rejected an invitation from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to meet the black leaders of the states that border white-ruled South Africa, a White House spokesman said Saturday. Deputy Press Secretary Albert R. Brashear said Mr. Reagan had schedule problems and "just didn't have the time" for a trip to Africa. Brashear added, however, that the administration was "hoping something could be set up" with Secretary of State George Shultz when he visits southern Africa next month. Mr. Shultz is tentatively scheduled to travel to South Africa, as well as the nearby nations of Zambia and Botswana. Administration officials had reacted coolly to the invitation to Mr. Reagan when it was announced in late August by the leaders of the six black "front-line" states.

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Dialogue on youth opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday opens a month-long dialogue on Jordanian youth. Organized by the Jordan Forum Humanism, and to be held at the University of Jordan, the dialogue includes weekly meetings every Monday until Oct. 20 with participants discussing working papers on different topics of interest and concern to the youth in the Kingdom. The first paper to be discussed on Sunday is one presented by Jordan Valley Authority President Munther Haddadin. It deals with Jordanian youth's participation in development schemes.

Assad meets Junblatt

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed Saturday with Lebanese Socialist leader Walid Junblatt latest developments of reconciliation talks between Lebanon's civil war foes to end the 11-year-old conflict, the official Syrian Arab News Agency said. The dialogue, launched Sept. 2 by Lebanon's half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet, bogged down last Tuesday over the future distribution of power and the level of relations with Syria.

GCC ministers discuss trade ties

RIYADH (R) — Commerce ministers of Gulf Arab states met here on Saturday to discuss further coordination in economic fields. Officials said the ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), during a two-day session, would discuss allowing citizens of the six-nation group to carry out trade activities in any member country. The ministers, from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar, will report on the issue to the next GCC summit in Abu Dhabi in November.

12 alleged Communists held in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Twelve members of the outlawed Egyptian Communist Party have been arrested and are being held for investigation, a senior Interior Ministry official said Saturday.

ANC chief reportedly meets with Crocker

LONDON (AP) — The black nationalist African National Congress says its president, Oliver Tambo, met with U.S. Envoy Chester Crocker on Saturday in the highest-level meeting to date between the ANC and the United States. In Washington, State Department spokesman Sondra McCarty said, she had no information about any meeting between Tambo and Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs. ANC spokeswoman Preme Ginnwala said Tambo and Crocker talked for about two hours in London Saturday afternoon at the request of the State Department in the context of the upcoming visit of Secretary of State George P. Shultz to southern Africa.

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King and Thatcher review peace efforts, Jordan's 5-year plan

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with Agency despatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher held talks Saturday on efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and endeavours to convene an international conference on the Middle East.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the London meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Petra said the King and Mrs. Thatcher also discussed on the role Britain could play, along with other European Community (EC) members, in bringing about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The two leaders also discussed Jordan's five-year development plan which includes a JD 460 million development programme for the Israeli-occupied West

Bank and Gaza. The King and the British premier also reviewed a number of other regional and international issues, including the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war, Petra added.

Later in the day, the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor were the guests of honour at a luncheon hosted by Mrs. Thatcher at her country residence at Chequers, the agency said. Mr. Rifai and Gen. Sharif Zaid attended the luncheon along with senior British government officials.

The outcome of the Sept. 11 Egyptian-Israeli summit in Alexandria was also expected to

figure in the King's discussions with Mrs. Thatcher. At the end of the summit, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres announced that they had agreed on a preparatory committee for an international conference on the Middle East.

The King was briefed on the results of the Alexandria talks by Mr. Mubarak's political adviser, Dr. Osama Al Baz, on Friday.

Prime Minister Rifai, who joined the King in London after a visit to Bonn on Thursday, is expected to visit Paris on Monday for talks with French government leaders on Middle East peace efforts and Jordan's five-year development plan.

The prime minister's talks in Bonn with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl dealt with the development plan and a West German government spokesman said Dr. Kohl promised that his government would study whether it could offer financial assistance to the Kingdom.

Shultz, Shevardnadze resume talks on superpower summit

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S.-Soviet talks on a possible superpower summit resumed on Saturday with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left in no doubt about American feelings over Moscow's detention of reporter Nicholas Daniloff.

The talks began with a one-hour private session between Mr. Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz, followed by an 80-minute full delegation meeting and then lunch at the Soviet embassy.

Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze held similar face-to-face sessions on Friday, with only interpreters present, totalling three and a half hours. Officials said they were dominated by the Daniloff affair.

The full delegation talks were joined by President Reagan's national security adviser, John Poindexter.

The atmosphere at a brief picture-taking session Saturday morning appeared relaxed and cheerful in contrast to Friday

when neither side would smile for the cameras. On Saturday there was even a short burst of laughter.

The talks were expected to continue to explore possible areas of agreement in a wide area of superpower relations, including arms control, that could lay the groundwork for a second summit between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev by the end of the year.

A letter from Mr. Gorbachev on arms control delivered to Mr. Reagan by Mr. Shevardnadze on Friday was almost certain to be a key element in the discussions.

But the Daniloff affair, still unresolved after Mr. Shevardnadze's unscheduled meeting on Friday with Mr. Reagan and long face-to-face sessions with Mr. Shultz, cast a pall over summit prospects.

At the end of Friday's talks a smiling Shevardnadze had told reporters: "There is a possibility for resolving everything."

Asked about summit prospects,

he said: "Today is as yet hard to say. Give us time, give us another day."

U.S. officials have said they do not expect the two days of talks to produce an announcement of a summit date.

If Moscow had had doubts about the extent of the Reagan administration's anger over the Aug. 30 arrest on spying charges of Daniloff, a 51-year-old reporter for U.S. News and World Report, they were presumably set to rest on Friday.

A White House statement said the president called Mr. Shevardnadze to the White House "to convey the strength of his feelings about the continued refusal of the Soviet authorities to allow Nicholas Daniloff to return home."

But it remained to be seen whether the meeting would lead to any reassessment by Moscow.

"U.S. using Daniloff affair to frustrate summit," page 8

Stockholm conference adjourns, with details still unresolved

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Delegates to the 35-nation Stockholm Security Conference adjourned late Saturday, extending for a second day the deadline for reaching an East-West agreement aimed at achieving a more trustful and stable military situation in Europe.

Although working on borrowed time after freezing the clock at an hour before midnight Friday, when the conference was scheduled to close, both the Soviet and U.S. delegation chiefs expressed optimism about a last-hour success after 32 months of negotiations.

"Everything is going well," Oleg Grievsky, the Soviet delegation head, said after a 8 P.M. (1800 GMT) plenary meeting at which work on drafting a final document was set to resume at noon (1000 GMT) Sunday. "I am pretty sure the outstanding questions will be solved and I see clear prospects for success."

He said details of two remaining unresolved central issues — parameters and numerical thresholds for the size of military movements requiring notification, plus technical specifics of on-site inspections — remained under discussion while the rest of the final document was ready in principle.

The talks, grouping the United States, Canada and every European nation except Albania, are on the threshold of agreeing measures which will open up the military activities of member nations to the inspectors of other countries.

The measures are designed to reduce the risk of war by easing foreign suspicion of military exercises carried out within Europe's traditional boundaries of the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural Mountains.

Member states would have to give advance warning of ground troop exercises and invite observers who would be able to verify the extent of these manoeuvres through aerial and land-based inspection trips.

A section of the final document also carried a commitment to the non-use of force.

The remaining problem, which both Eastern and Western delegates say is easily within their grasp, centres on the size of exercises which would have to be notified in advance.

Technical details about the inspection trips also remain to be tidied up, delegates said.

AP adds: Informed delegation sources said the three main chapters of the final document officially registered as agreed and relayed to capitals for endorsement included:

- Reaffirming the principle of non-violence.
- Obligatory invitation to observers of military activities above a certain level, which still was to be filled in. Two levels, of 75,000 and 40,000 troops, were discussed.
- Obligatory information each November on major military activities for the following year.

Boston honours Aquino

BOSTON (AP) — Philippine President Corason Aquino, accepting an honorary degree from Boston University on Saturday, compared her slain husband to the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"Violence struck him down, but his legacy was never lost," Mrs. Aquino said.

She quoted her late husband, Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino, as saying, "the Filipino is worth dying for." She said she accepted the honorary doctorate of law degree on behalf of her people.

Seven months after becoming president, Mrs. Aquino said: "We are encouraged to believe that our present labour to rebuild our devastated nation will succeed. ... but it is, as you say in this country, a tall order."

"Yet, we have done the impossible, who is to say we cannot do it again?"

A crowd of 650 people gave her a standing ovation, shouting "Cory, Cory, Cory," before she spoke. Mrs. Aquino said she was glad to be back in the State where her family lived in voluntary exile "at a time when the prospect for change in our land still looked forlorn."

About 50 invited guests were on hand when Mrs. Aquino's plane landed at 9:35 a.m. at Logan international airport. They included members of the Filipino community in suburban Newton.

Israeli soldiers kill Gaza student

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 16-year-old Palestinian student was shot dead by Israeli troops on Saturday as residents of the occupied Gaza Strip staged a demonstration to mark the fourth anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors news in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, identified the Palestinian boy as Ismail Biddeh, a student at the Beesheba High School in Rafah.

The Gaza demonstrators unfurled the Palestinian flag, chanted slogans and burned tyres, a Palestine Press Service official was quoted as saying by international news agencies.

Israeli troops opened fire on the demonstrators, the official said. It was not known whether any other demonstrator was wounded in the gunfire.

Earlier this week, a resident of the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem was shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers when residents of the West Bank staged demonstrations to mark the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. More than 1,000 Palestinian and Lebanese women, children and old men were killed by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen under the supervision of Israeli forces who invaded Lebanon in 1982 and surrounded the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut.

Big U.N. majority endorses sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — An overwhelming majority of U.N. members approved on Saturday an appeal to the Security Council for comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

In a General Assembly vote they adopted by 126-0, with 24 abstentions, a resolution calling for the urgent convening of the Security Council, which, under the charter, is the only U.N. body empowered to order enforcement measures.

Most of the abstentions were cast by Western members.

The assembly acted after four days of debate at a special session summoned to consider South Africa's failure to implement a 1978 Security Council resolution setting terms for the independence of Namibia (South West Africa).

The resolution upheld the legitimacy of the struggle of the Namibian people by every means at their disposal, included armed struggle, "to repel South Africa's aggression."

The proceedings were marked by success for United States efforts to deflect criticism of its policies towards South Africa. For want of a required two-thirds majority, the General Assembly rejected a call on the Reagan administration to desist from linking a demand for the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola to Namibian independence.

The vote was 65 to 48 with 27 abstentions and the president, Humayun Rasheed Choudhury of Bangladesh, ruled that the phrase "is not retained."

The General Assembly voted 60 to 48 with 30 abstentions in favour of rejecting the Reagan administration's policies of constructive engagement and Cuban troop "linkage." Mr. Choudhury declared, therefore, that his singling out of the Americans was also not retained.

Under the rules, abstentions do not count in determining the basis for a two-thirds majority.

Ghana led a bid to set aside the two-thirds majority requirement, but Mr. Choudhury's ruling was accepted on the basis that there was ample precedent for it.

The United States has repeatedly accused the Third World majority in the United Nations of anti-Americanism and warned that it would scrutinise voting patterns this year.

Countries that persistently attacked the United States were put on notice that their actions might influence American aid decisions.

Saturday's assembly action was expected to precipitate a meeting of the Security Council within a few weeks, when the United States and Britain, which oppose comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, appear likely to veto any move for a sweeping embargo.

A ban on arms sales against South Africa has been in effect since 1977, when it was supported by the Carter administration.

Jordan condemns terrorist attacks and supports France

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib denounced on Saturday the series of bombings in Paris in the past two weeks that left eight people dead.

"The Jordanian government denounces these terrorist acts and supports for the French government in crushing terrorism," Mr. Khatib said.

He said the bombings were aimed at destroying the friendly relations which exist between Arab and French people. They only benefit the enemies of the Arabs, Mr. Khatib added.

He said the Paris explosions also threaten efforts to achieve a

Middle East peace. "France is adopting a friendly and understanding stand towards the Palestinian issue in particular, and the Arabs in general," Mr. Khatib said.

Mr. Khatib also said Jordan would approve of any legal steps France might take to end terrorism.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Khatib gave the message to French Ambassador Patrick Leclercq, who called on him on Saturday.

Mr. Khatib said both the Jordanian government and people were against the attacks to which French citizens and property were being subjected at home and

abroad. "We do not believe that those who committed such crimes were doing so in the interests of the Arabs... on the contrary, their real goal was to harm them as well as all attempts to restore normal life to Lebanon," the minister told Petra.

In Damascus, Syria also condemned the bombings in France, which it said had taken a fairer stance on Arab issues than any other Western nation.

There have in fact been reprehensible acts that require condemnation," Damascus Radio said, commenting on the wave of

(Continued on page 3)

Bombers threaten more attacks; France ponders counter-action

PARIS (AP) — A clandestine underground organisation that has claimed responsibility for the wave of deadly bombings in Paris said Saturday there was more to come, while the man whose release it was seeking was transferred to a prison in the capital.

The Committee of Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners, in a message to a Western news agency in Beirut, acknowledged its responsibility for the blast that killed five and injured 52 Wednesday at a discount clothing store in the Montparnasse district.

"We in the committee stress that we have not halted our operations and we shall not halt

them until freedom is achieved for the political prisoners in France," the statement said. "If not, the fire is going to grow, expand, continue and move."

The committee is seeking the release of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, presumed leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions (FARL) group. The Justice Ministry said Abdallah had been transferred from Fleury-Merogis prison outside Paris to La Santé prison, not far from the Latin district.

The ministry noted that he had been moved several times previously for security reasons, but provided no further information.

Abdallah is serving a four-year

prison term for possession of arms and false documents. He also is charged with complicity in the killings of an American military attaché and an Israeli diplomat. The committee also is seeking the release of two other Arabs who are serving life sentences in France.

Police have put out a nationwide alert for nine suspects in the series of five bombings that killed eight and injured 164. Four of them are Abdallah's brothers.

The brothers, however, have all turned up in Lebanon and denied

(Continued on page 3)

Shamir says he will build more settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Saturday he would seek increased Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after he becomes prime minister next month.

"We will have to increase this (settlement) activity in the framework of our economic possibilities," Mr. Shamir said in an Israeli radio interview.

The right-wing foreign minister is due to swap posts with Prime Minister Shimon Peres under a coalition agreement reached after stalemate elections in 1984.

Mr. Shamir said he would establish settlements in

accordance with coalition guidelines calling for the establishment of up to 27 new settlements in the occupied territories.

Mr. Peres has allowed only four new settlements to be set up during his two years in office.

Settlement activists say 17,000 Israelis have moved into the territories in the past two years, strengthening about 150 Jewish settlements previously established in the areas.

They say some 68,000 Jews now live in the West Bank and Gaza, among a population of 1.3 million Palestinians.

Kuwait to host OIC summit

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait has offered to host the 46-nation pan-Islamic summit conference sometime during the second half of next January, it was announced here Saturday.

The Kuwait News Agency quoted Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Asseimi as saying that the summit would be preceded with a preparatory conference of the foreign ministers of the 46 countries.

He said that Kuwait had communicated this offer to the secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), Sharifuddin Pirzadah, who is based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

OIC sources said the offer was only a formality, adding that Kuwait will be the venue for the

fifth pan-Islamic summit. The foreign ministers, they said, would set the date and devise an agenda for the summit.

The agenda is expected to focus on means of mustering Islamic powers in a diplomatic drive to bring the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war to an immediate end.

Warring Iran and Iraq are prominent members of the OIC. The organisation in recent years initiated a series of unsuccessful mediation bids to bring the Gulf belligerents to a negotiating table.

In addition, the summit would examine the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and seek means of arranging a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, to be based on redressing the Palestinians by advocating their statehood rights.

Sudanese rebels renew threat against aid flights

NAIROBI (AP) — Rebels in southern Sudan issued a new warning on Saturday that planes carrying food to starving people in the south would be shot down unless cleared in advance with the guerrillas.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) carried the warning in broadcast by its clandestine radio station. The broadcast, monitored here, referred to United Nations plans to mount an emergency food airlift with a C-130 Hercules transport plane flying out of Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.

Radio SPLA, in a commentary by a leading insurgent spokesman, Muki Batai, said the United Nations' office for emergency operations in Khartoum "should not insist on flying to the south without obtaining permission from us."

Batai said that if the chief of the U.N. office in the Sudanese capital "thinks that by talking with the rebels... he will offend Khartoum, then he must bear in mind that even if no legality has been conferred on us, we do matter in Sudanese affairs."

The commentator said that "the only way out for all organisations concerned with saving lives" in the south is to negotiate with the SPLA's own relief arm, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association.

The rebels, who claim to control virtually all of southern Sudan's countryside while the government holds about a dozen besieged towns, have been pressing for a major say in distribution of any relief supplies delivered by international organisations.

The war-induced famine in the south has reached a critical

stage, according to relief organisations. The International Committee of the Red Cross, for example, reported Friday that thousands face starvation in the southern town of Wau unless food reaches them soon.

Relief agencies estimate two to three million southern Sudanese face starvation because of the three-year-old civil war. The United Nations says about 100,000 people need emergency help in Wau alone.

But Saturday's SPLA broadcast said: "We would like to remind the public that the warning issued on Aug. 15, 1986, by the SPLA military high command has not been revoked."

This was a reference to an order to rebel gunners to shoot down any aircraft, including mercy flights, crossing SPLA-controlled territory without advance

clearance. A day after the order, the SPLA used a SAM-7 surface-to-air missile to bring down a Sudan Airways plane, killing all 63 people aboard and prompting relief organisations to suspend their mercy flights.

Soviets said to have sited SS-24s

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union has begun deploying the SS-24, one of its new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) for the mid-1990s, the Japanese daily newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun reported Saturday. A high-ranking U.S. official disclosed this to a Yomiuri correspondent in Washington on Wednesday, the paper said. The unnamed official was quoted as saying about 10 of the mobile SS-24s had been deployed so far.

5 French soldiers wounded in S. Lebanon grenade attack

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Five French soldiers of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at their post, Lebanese security sources said Saturday.

The attack came after the soldiers from the post at Dardaghia, east of the southern port city of Tyre, were in serious condition and had been taken to the UNIFIL field hospital in the southernmost town of Naqurah.

This is the latest in a series of almost daily guerrilla strikes against the 1,500-strong French contingent in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.

The attack came after France called for another urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to review the force's role in light of a fact-finding mission to Lebanon by U.N. Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding.

Four French soldiers have been killed in attacks in South Lebanon this month, bringing to 26 the number of French deaths. The anti-French attacks have led to plans for a redeployment of the contingent to more secure zones in southern Lebanon.

France has so far ruled out unilateral withdrawal from the 5,800-strong UNIFIL force but officials have strongly criticised what they see as the absence of

adequate security and the slow pace of efforts to bring about change.

In Tel Aviv Friday, the French ambassador to Israel Alain Pierret also asked the Israeli army not to interfere with the operations of U.N. peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon.

France has called for the UNIFIL to police the Israeli-Lebanese border where Israel maintains a buffer zone.

French Ambassador to the United Nations Claude De Kemourian made the request at an urgent meeting of the Security Council which he called Friday to consider a report on tension in the area by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The report proposed that UNIFIL be deployed as far south as the Israeli-Lebanon border.

The document reasoned that this would stop attacks by local groups against Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia which have also endangered U.N. troops.

Mr. De Kemourian, the only delegate to address Friday's brief meeting of the council, said he

would soon introduce a resolution calling for the swift southward deployment of the force.

He said the United Nations should reconsider its mission in southern Lebanon if an objective so essential and so vital to the return of civil peace in the region was not quickly achieved.

In his statement to the council, Mr. De Kemourian said: "The truth is that UNIFIL was created on Lebanese soil and its mission reflects first and foremost the requirement of insuring the sovereignty and integrity of the country, and it cannot act without the unanimous support of the Lebanese."

He said no foreign armed element not accepted by the Lebanese authorities could continue to exist in South Lebanon.

"If we wish to see to it that UNIFIL might once again enjoy the full support of the Lebanese population we must see to it that this force is able, as quickly as possible, to deploy... on the international border."

The French ambassador said France's concerns are in keeping with those expressed in the U.N. secretary general's report.

The council adjourned until Monday afternoon.

Israel established its "security zone" along the Lebanon side of the border when the bulk of Israeli

troops who invaded Lebanon in 1982 were pulled out in June last year.

Part of the zone overlaps the UNIFIL area of operations, but the U.N. force has never been able to deploy up to the frontier since it was established in 1978.

Shortly before the meeting began, Israel's U.N. mission issued a statement taking issue with the secretary general's report. "To blame Israel and its security measures for the problems facing UNIFIL today is not merely inaccurate, it disregards the main forces threatening UNIFIL and Lebanon as a whole," the statement said.

Meanwhile in Beirut, Lebanon's Fanatics staged a day-long strike Saturday to protest the assassination of France's military attaché in east Beirut.

Shops, cafes, banks and businesses were closed in Beirut's Christian sector and the Christian heartland north and north east of the Lebanese capital in mourning of the slain diplomat.

The opposition in west Beirut, northern and southern Lebanon did not observe the strike.

Col. Christian Goutierre, 60, was shot and killed as he parked his car near the French embassy in east Beirut's Hazmieh district on Thursday.

American lawmakers urge Assad to help free hostages

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six congressmen whose states are home to Americans missing in Lebanon urged Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Friday to help win the release of the captives.

Representative Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts and five of his colleagues said in a letter to Mr. Assad:

"We believe you may be in a position to help identify the kidnappers, obtain the release of the victims, and, until such time, promote true communications between the Americans and their families."

Signers of the letter were Mr. Markey and representatives Lawrence Coughlin of Pennsylvania, Frank Brown of Colorado, Robert Badham and Robert Dornan of California, and Donaki Pease of Ohio.

Mr. Markey said the letter was sent to Mr. Assad by the State Department diplomatic pouch.

The congressmen told Mr. Assad they were seeking his help because of his success in helping to release of other U.S. hostages, including David Dodge, former president of the American University in Beirut, and the passengers on TWA flight 847 last year.

Syrian troops control part of Lebanon, but Mr. Assad has said he not know where the American hostages are held. Previously, he and his government have pledged to help secure the hostages' release.

"It is our hope that in these troubled times, despite the considerable differences between our nations, you will find it possible to assist us in freeing these and other hostages in Lebanon and ending the terror and violence that afflict the lives of innocent human beings," the congressmen wrote.

While seeking to find a balance

Soviets seek bigger Middle East role

By Ed Blanche

The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The Soviet Union has stepped up its diplomatic efforts in the Middle East aimed at resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war.

Moscow, the major arms supplier for Syria, Libya and Iraq, is striving to improve its links with other Islamic countries, as well as with Israel, at a time when U.S. efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute appear to be stalled.

As part of the Soviet effort, no less than three ranking Soviet envoys shuttled this month between Arab capitals.

Soviet Vice President Pyotr Demichev was in Libya, an unpredictable ally of Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov swung through Syria, Jordan and Algeria, and Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky was in Tunisia, Egypt and Iraq.

The Paris-based Arabic weekly Al-Mustakbal quoted an unidentified senior Arab official as saying the Soviet emissaries briefed Arab leaders on a "major peace initiative... with some very tangible elements."

No details of the Soviets' meetings were released.

The Soviets appear to have made some gains, but don't seem to have significantly yet altered the balance of power in the volatile region. The United States clearly remains the dominant regional power, despite Arab indignation at Washington's close ties with Israel.

But diplomatic sources also report a feeling among some Arab states such as Jordan that the Americans have lost hope of a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the foreseeable future.

Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser, was quoted by the Cairo Al-Mussawra weekly earlier this month as noting: "The Soviets... support the Arab position much more than the United States."

While seeking to find a balance

between Arab countries and reconcile feuding Palestinian factions, the Soviets are also cautiously trying to gain influence with the two countries seen as threats by most of the Arab World, Israel and Iran.

The Soviet dilemma remains that it has no leverage with Israel. The Israelis insist that Moscow must first renew diplomatic relations, severed in 1967, before it can become involved in the Middle East peace process.

The Soviets held consular-level talks with Israel in Helsinki on Aug. 18, their first official diplomatic meeting in 19 years.

The talks ended abruptly after only 90 minutes. But Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres later said the meeting showed that Moscow "felt the need for a new (Middle East) policy" despite fears that rapprochement with Israel would jeopardise its relations with the Arab World.

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The Soviets have long pressed for an international conference under U.N. auspices, with the five permanent Security Council members, including the Soviet Union, attending.

Syria and Jordan favour this. The U.S.-sponsored peace process, launched with Egypt's Camp David peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has been stalled for some time. In that treaty, Egypt, to the chagrin of other Arab states, recognised Israel's existence and Israel returned territory it had captured.

The process has stalled through Israel's refusal to negotiate directly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whom the Arabs consider the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Despite recent Middle East swings by U.S. Vice President George Bush and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, there has been little discernible movement in the U.S. initiative.

U.S. standing in the Middle East has been at low ebb since a U.S.-supervised agreement

between Israel and Lebanon fell apart under Syrian pressure in 1984 and a U.S.-led Multi-National Force, bloodied by Shi'ite Muslim suicide bombers in Beirut, pulled out from Lebanon.

A dispute over Palestinian representation at any peace talks derailed moves last year to revive the U.S. effort.

The Soviets' pledge to withdraw some troops from Afghanistan indicates it is seeking to ease tensions with Islamic countries, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, which have condemned the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Moscow now is also trying to mediate an end to the 6-year-old war between Iran and Iraq that has split the Arab World. This, Arab diplomats say, is a top priority with Moscow.

The Soviet Union, a longtime ally of Iraq and its main arms supplier, has not yet gained any significant leverage with Tehran's Islamic fundamentalists.

They have viewed Moscow as much as "imperialistic sultan" as Washington since the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's revolution toppled the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

Relations were strained further in 1984, when Iran expelled 16 Soviet diplomats for allegedly spying and cracked down on the pro-Moscow Tudeh Communist Party.

But the high cost of the Gulf war — \$7 billion a year, by official Iranian estimates — has made the leadership in Tehran more amenable towards the Soviet Union, their northern neighbour.

Iranian leaders have visited Moscow in recent weeks and last month Tehran announced it will resume pumping natural gas to the Soviet Union after a seven-year suspension.

Soviet President Andrei Gromyko impressed on Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mohammad Javan Larijani, in Moscow last month the need to end the war. He was quoted as telling Mr. Larijani: "One day of war is worse than three years of negotiations."

Attacks linked to high French profile in Mideast

By Myra MacDonald

Reuters

PARIS — After the horror and outrage at the spate of Middle East-linked bombings, the bewildered French are asking themselves: Why us?

The sense of despair is heightened by almost daily attacks on France's peacekeeping troops in Lebanon, the assassination of its military attaché in Beirut Thursday and the failure of efforts to free its hostages in Lebanon.

After years of regarding itself as an independent arbiter in the Middle East conflict, France is finding itself a victim of an apparent all-out assault on its policies, diplomats say.

France's high profile in the Middle East, as the most actively involved of all Western European countries, dates from its days as a colonial power before World War II.

It has long assumed a sense of responsibility as peacemakers in its former protectorate of Lebanon, maintaining a peacekeeping force there even after suicide and guerrilla attacks forced out the Americans, the British and the Italians.

It has also kept up a fairly neutral stance on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

But diplomats and political analysts point to the contradictions in French policy of trying to stay friends with all parties in the Middle East.

Since the mid-1970s it has had a

commitment to Iraq, and became its main Western backer in its war with Iran — seriously straining relations with Tehran.

It has also clashed with Libya by sending troops and military equipment to its former African colony of Chad to support the government of President Hissene Habre against Libyan-backed rebels.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In addition, its tradition of tutelage in Lebanon has angered many who want an end to all Western military presence there, diplomats said.

And rightly or wrongly, along with other European countries, it was seen as having given tacit consent to the U.S. bombing raid on Libya, they added.

"All these policies contribute to a willingness to take on the French," one diplomat said. "There may be an element that the French are considered fair game."

While according to Michel Jobert, a foreign minister under Mr. Pompidou: "Our policy in the Middle East has become full of illusions, dangerous and inconsequential."

"One cannot be surprised when one suffers the effects," he said in a statement last week.

But Mr. Jobert is one of the few to question French policy as politicians close ranks behind Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's firm reassertion that "we will not

give into blackmail."

According to some analysts it is too easy to see a link between the bombings, the hostages and the attacks on French troops in Lebanon, too easy to assume an overall master plan.

Most of the bombings have been claimed by a shadowy group demanding the release of Arab prisoners held in France, and particularly that of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, suspected leader of the Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARL).

"It is perfectly possible that it is only a small group determined to get Abdallah out," one Western diplomat said. "Lebanon is such a madhouse... I wouldn't put anything past these small Lebanese factions."

However, a spokesman for Mr. Chirac said the bombings could be linked to efforts to dislodge France's peacekeeping troops from the United Nations force in Lebanon.

He also said the government was increasingly convinced that the bombings were not the work of an isolated group.

Whatever, or whoever, is behind the attacks, the question asked by many political analysts is how France will react.

The highly-publicised French government's promise to get the hostages safely out of Lebanon has ruled out a major show of force as used by the U.S. when it bombed Libya.

And according to one diplomat: "The French have a habit of giving

in when things get awkward for them."

When he came to office six months ago, Mr. Chirac stepped up diplomatic contacts with Iran and Syria in the hope they could secure the release of the French hostages.

He appeared to act quickly on one major stumbling block straining relations with Tehran — when France secured the departure from France of Massoud Rajavi, leader of the People's Mujahedin Iranian opposition group.

Although officials have insisted Rajavi left voluntarily, his departure was shortly followed by the release of two French hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Chirac also stepped in to smooth the dispute over the \$1-billion loan granted by the late Shah to the French-led Eurodif Uranium Consortium, and reclaimed by Tehran after the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

But political analysts say that in steering a narrow course between refusing to give in to blackmail and negotiating with legitimate governments, Mr. Chirac is finding room for manoeuvre gradually reduced.

A flurry of diplomatic contacts with Tehran some months ago has failed to secure the release of the remaining hostages.

And, diplomats and analysts say, France cannot go back on its commitment to Iraq, although this may be the greatest source of tension in its Middle East policy.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
773111-14	639, 720, 1233 KHz
PROGRAMME ONE	07:00 Newdesk 07:30 A Decade of Hits
17:00.....Korn	07:45 Review 08:00 World News 08:45 24
17:30.....Cartoons	Hour: News Summary 09:30 A Land of
17:45.....Children programmes	Song 09:45 Letter from America 09:50
18:10.....Fairy Tales Theatre	Newdesk 09:50 Jazz for the Asking
18:35.....Programme on the history of	10:00 World News 10:30 24 Hours
clothes	News Summary 10:45 News About Britain
19:00.....Local programme	14:30 Classic Pop Concert 15:30
19:45.....News programme	Growing Points in Science 15:45 Sports
20:00.....News in Arabic	Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 24
20:30.....Arabic series	Hour: News Summary 16:30 Six
21:30.....Varieties	Characters in Search of an Author 16:45
22:00.....Local varieties programme	Pygmalion cont. 17:30 Waiting 18:00
23:00.....News in Arabic	Radio Newdesk 18:15 Concert Hall
23:10.....The Four Horsemen	19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary
23:40.....News in English	19:15 Hand Sell, Soft Sell 19:45 Letter
23:50.....Dallas	From America 20:00 World News 20:09
RADIO JORDAN	Reflections 20:15 Meridian 20:45 Sports
855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM	Round-up 21:00 Newdesk 21:30 Six
& partly on 95.60 KHz SW	News in Action 12:45 Islamic
773111-14	Fundamentalism 13:00 News Summary:
07:00.....Light Music	Short Story 13:15 Classical Record
07:30.....Newdesk	Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00
08:00.....Morning Show	World News 14:09 News About Britain
08:30.....News Summary	14:15 From Our Own Correspondent
09:00.....Pop Session	14:30 Classic Pop Concert 15:30
10:00.....In Concert	Growing Points in Science 15:45 Sports
10:30.....News Summary	Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 24
10:45.....Pop Session Cont.	Hour: News Summary 16:30 Six
11:00.....News Summary	Characters in Search of an Author 16:45
11:30.....Pop Session Cont.	Pygmalion cont. 17:30 Waiting 18:00
12:00.....Pop Session Cont.	Radio Newdesk 18:15 Concert Hall
12:30.....News Summary	19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary
13:00.....Pop Session Cont.	19:15 Hand Sell, Soft Sell 19:45 Letter
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14:00.....News Bulletin	Reflections 20:15 Meridian 20:45 Sports
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15:30.....News Summary	Short Story 13:15 Classical Record
16:00.....News Bulletin	Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00
16:30.....Old Favourites	World News 14:09 News About Britain
16:45.....Listeners' Choice	14:15 From Our Own Correspondent
17:00.....News Summary	14:30 Classic Pop Concert 15:30
17:30.....Jazz Hour	Growing Points in Science 15:45 Sports
18:00.....News Summary	Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 24
18:30.....Evening Show Cont.	Hour: News Summary 16:30 Six
19:00.....News Summary	Characters in Search of an Author 16:45
19:30.....News Summary	Pygmalion cont. 17:30 Waiting 18:00
20:00.....News Summary	Radio Newdesk 18:15 Concert Hall
20:30.....News Summary	19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary
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22:30.....News Summary	Round-up 21:00 Newdesk 21:30 Six
23:00.....News Summary	News in Action 12:45 Islamic
23:30.....News Summary	Fundamentalism 13:00 News Summary:
24:00.....Close down	Short Story 13:15 Classical Record

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
07:00.....Korn	07:00 Newdesk 07:30 A Decade of Hits
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	ARRIVALS
21:30.....Baghdad (RJ)	01:30.....Bucharest (RO)
21:45.....Abu Dhabi (RJ)	09:15.....Athens (RJ)
22:30.....Cairo (RJ)	09:45.....London (RJ)
22:45.....Sana'a (RJ)	10:00.....Paris, Brussels (RJ)
23:00.....Bahrain, Muscat (RJ)	10:30.....Madrid, Rome (RJ)
23:00.....Kuwait (RJ)	10:45.....Frankfurt (LH)
23:00.....Bangkok (RJ)	10:50.....Paris, Geneva (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves JHOC law

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued approving a law which endorsed an agreement for the joint exploration of oil between the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Jordan Hunt Oil Company (JHOC). The agreement was signed between the two sides on Aug. 4 and covers oil and gas exploration in Al Jafr region in the southern part of Jordan.

Cabinet okays CIP agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the U.S. Commodity Import Programme (CIP) agreement which was signed earlier this year. The \$13 million agreement will be used to finance purchases for some development projects in Jordan.

Antiquities to go on display in Paris

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Antiquities is organising an exhibition entitled "Jordan through the Ages" which will open in Paris on Nov. 1. The three-month exhibition will be organised in cooperation with the French institute for Middle East antiquities.

Ministry supports councils in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will spend JD 20.3 million on joint services councils in the Zarqa region during the current five-year plan, according to Mohammad Al Daba'i, acting governor of Zarqa. He said that the allocations will be for building roads, public utilities, purchasing land for public services, building public gardens, handicraft zones and shopping centres. These projects, he said, will be carried out in Zarqa, Sukmeih, Hashemieh, Duleil and Ruseifeh.

National committee members visit Tafleeh

TAFILEH (Petra) — A number of members of the Jordanian national committee for supporting Iraq on Saturday paid a visit to Tafleeh Governorate where they met with representatives of official and popular sectors in the governorate. Mr. Deifallah Al Hmoud, a committee member, said that the aim of a campaign launched by the committee is to support Iraq in its just war against the Iranian enemy. The committee's members earlier met with Tafleeh Acting Governor Ramez Al Majali who expressed his readiness to cooperate with this committee. The donations campaign for Iraq began throughout the country on Sept. 8.

Mafraq chamber lauds new council

MAFRAQ (Petra) — President of the Mafraq Chamber of Commerce Youssef Al Muhaisen has praised the cabinet's formation of an economic consultative council and said that the council would take positive and well-studied decisions to reactivate the Jordanian economy. A number of private sector merchants in Mafraq also said that the formation of this council was a manifestation of the principle of cooperation between the public and private sectors to achieve the goals of comprehensive development in the country through the protection of local industries.

Ministry official leaves for Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Awad Al Tal on Saturday left for Cairo to take part in a conference organised by the Islamic and Arab Cities Organisation which opens today.

ARA tidies up beach area in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — As part of the Aqaba Regional Authority's (ARA) stepped up efforts to reorganise the coastline district of the port city, the authority has announced the removal of all walls which divide Aqaba beach into confined and private sections in order to give tourists freedom of movement. As of Saturday, the authority also started the removal of all tin and wooden shacks near the beach which are occupied by non-Jordanian labourers in an effort to upgrade housing for these workers and to make the city look more attractive.

These steps are part of a recent ARA campaign to reorganise the structure of Jordan's only port on the Red Sea and to encourage local and international tourism in the area.

Mr. Bassam Qaqish, newly-appointed director general of the ARA, said that all walls and fences on the beach, stretching from the Coral Beach Hotel to the Aqaba Hotel (including the Aquamarina and the Holiday Inn hotels), have been removed to enable tourists to move freely on the hotel beach district.

Whitewashing campaign

Mr. Qaqish, former director of the Aqaba Ports Corporation (APC), said that official departments as well as residents and hotel owners have started implementing the ARA's instructions to paint houses and buildings in white.

Commenting on the ARA's project to remove all tin and aluminum shacks from the Al Hafaier and Al Shallah districts, M. Qaqish said that the make-shift houses in these two districts have been built illegally and without abiding by any health or service regulations to accommodate non-Jordanian labourers at cheap charges.

He described the tin shacks as a four-by-four metre rooms in which three or four workers live and each pay a monthly rent of JD 4 or JD 5. The wooden and tin shacks located in Al Hafaier and Al Shallah areas will be totally removed in a week's time as they have become a hazard in terms of general safety, health and security. He added that non-Jordanian workers can make use of the housing facilities at the "labourers' village," known as Al Rabia district, which is situated six-kilometres from Aqaba's city centre.



Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh (second from left) and a representative of the Jordanian-Turkish-Swiss consortium sign the JD 17.5 million Zara-Ghor Haditha agreement (Saturday Petra photo)

Ministry awards JD 17.5m tender for Zara-Ghor Haditha highway

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Public Works has awarded three construction companies a tender to build a 32-kilometre long road in the southern Jordan Valley region at a total cost of JD 17.5 million, under an agreement signed in Amman on Saturday.

The three companies, one local, one Turkish and the third Swiss, will embark on the project before the end of the year and should finish the work in 50 months.

The road starts from a point near Zara and ends at Ghor Haditha in the southern regions of the Jordan Valley. It will connect Sweimeh, near the Dead Sea, with

the Ghor Al Safi road which goes on to Aqaba. According to the agreement, the two-lane road will have 10 bridges including those to be built over the wadis of Mujib, Shaqis, Waleh, Ibn Hammad, Al Jarrah and Al Thabi.

Part of the project will be financed by the Jordanian treasury whilst the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development are providing a total of JD 14 million between them in the form of loans.

Last Wednesday, the SFD signed an agreement under which

it will lend Jordan JD 7.8 million to help finance the cost of the new road.

Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh, who signed the agreement with representatives of the consortium of three companies, said that the road will shorten the distance between the north and south of the Kingdom by 60 kilometres. The minister went on to say that the road will ease congestion on the north-south roads, especially on the Desert Highway to Aqaba, in addition to promoting the Jordan Valley's economic and tourism sectors.

First year students at science university to use facilities at Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — Students who registered to start their studies at the newly-established University of Science and Technology near Irbid are to take lessons for the time being at Yarmouk University while second and third year students reading sciences and science-related subjects at Yarmouk University will move to the new university premises. Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, president of the University of Science and Technology said on Saturday.

He said first year students will have to stay at Yarmouk for this year to benefit from the laboratories and other facilities there while the other science students will attend classes in the new premises which are ready for them.

Dr. Ajlouni, who was addressing new students gathered at Yarmouk University, urged the

students to study hard and to avoid any trouble making. The results of each term will be posted at the university and will also be sent by mail to students' parents so they can monitor their children's work. Dr. Ajlouni said.

Dr. Ajlouni announced that the new university will adopt an easy system for the registration of new students and that university officials will be meeting with students on regular basis to discuss their needs and problems.

In June, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad announced the government's decision to open the new university as of the 1986/87 academic year and said that the new university should be able to absorb 12,000 students in medicine, engineering, agriculture, veterinary medicine

and medical sciences. Yarmouk University will accommodate the faculties of art, languages, economy and humanities.

On Saturday Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan met with newly registered students and he spoke about the university's programmes and extra curricular activities.

Altogether approximately 28,000 male and female students will be going to university in Jordan this academic year, of whom 13,000 are registered at Yarmouk and the new University of Science and Technology and 12,000 are registered to study at various faculties of the University of Jordan. Nearly 3,000 students are registered to study at Mu'ta University, near Karak in southern Jordan.

VTC director outlines plans to expand vocational training

By Marwan Shraideh
Petra

AMMAN — Director General of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Munther Al Masri has said that workers in the field of vocational education and training have complained about a lack of information, studies and statistics relevant to the labour force. However, he noted that various sources do provide information on this subject, such as economic and social development plans, local and foreign studies and statistics compiled by the Planning Ministry, the Department of Statistics and the World Bank, in addition to field surveys undertaken by various institutions including the VTC.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Masri said that the number of students who applied to join vocational schools in Jordan during the last five-year development plan (1981-1985) was well above expectations. He said the plan aimed to train 8,000 skilled workers while the actual number of workers who received training was 10,000. Mr. Masri added that the current five-year development plan aims to train 20,000 skilled workers at various vocational institutions in Jordan.

Mr. Masri said that the corporation provides short-term training courses for workers to raise efficiency and to improving their performance as well as short-term training courses for beginners to prepare them for their duties. The VTC also provides one-year training courses for students at the end of the preparatory stage, training courses for instructors and

supervisors and on job training for supervisors in factories, in addition to training courses on health and occupational safety.

Explaining his corporation's future plans for organising vocational work, Mr. Masri said the VTC plans to develop its cooperation and integration with the parties in charge of planning, preparation and recruitment of labour force through forming a high level committee to be in charge of all aspects related to the labour force. The VTC is also continuing its work to organise the vocational sector in preparation for issuing licences for practising professions at a later stage. The corporation is also working on necessary legislation which would help organise the vocational sector, he added.

Mr. Masri said that there are 12 VTC schools in the various parts of Jordan and that there are plans to construct six more centres and to expand existing centres to cope with the increasing number of students applying for admission to these schools.

Last week the cabinet decided to form a new board of directors for the VTC. The board comprises Dr. Saleh Khasawneh from the Labour Ministry, Khalid Al Ghazawi from Ministry of Education and Mr. Akram Al Shaer from the Ministry of Public Works. Also on the membership of the new board are Mr. Salem Ghawi from the Planning Ministry, Mr. Ahmad Kilani from the Jordanian Engineers Association, Mr. Khalil Abu Khurma from the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions and Dr. Subhi Al Tayeb and Mr. Mohammad Al Gharaybeh from the private sector.

Air carriers recommend formation of medical committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first medical conference organised by the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) has recommended the formation of a medical committee to deal with aviation medicine in the Arab region. The conferees suggested that this committee supervise and organise all matters related to limiting working hours and ensuring sufficient rest periods for pilots.

The recommendation was contained in a final statement issued at the conclusion of the five-day meeting which was attended by delegates from 10 Arab airlines and organisations.

The meeting also called for the formation of a pan-Arab committee to conduct studies on unifying Arab civil aviation laws and regulations concerning regular medical examinations. They also called for drawing up medical standards and criteria for examining stewards and stewardesses, issuing licences and exchanging expertise in medical affairs concerning civil aviation.

The meeting, which was held at the Gateway Hotel near the Queen Alia International Airport, was addressed by the director of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. During the meeting, delegates reviewed aviation issues other than medical affairs and discussed hijacking civilian aircraft and the effect of long flights on crews.

The meeting decided that the next AACO conference be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in January 1987.

Jordan registers world's highest increase in phosphate exports

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has led the world in exporting phosphates during the first half of 1986, according to Mr. Makram Zureikat, director of the sales department at the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC).

He said that Jordan exported 2,653 million tonnes of the mineral in the first half of this year, compared with 1.9 million tonnes in the same period of last year, an increase of 37.3 per cent.

Mr. Zureikat said that in the first half of this year, Algeria increased its phosphate exports by 21 per cent, Tunisia by 16.9 per cent, Senegal by 7.3 per cent and the rest of the world's phosphate exporters registered an increase of

2.2 per cent while the United States' exports dropped by six per cent and Moroccan exports of the rock went down by 9.8 per cent.

According to a JPMC spokesman, the Shidieh mine will start production in the first half of 1988 and is expected to produce one million tonne of phosphates a year.

The spokesman said that the Wadi Al Abiad and Al Hassa mines in southern Jordan will together produce some 33 million tonnes of phosphates during the current five-year development plan.

The bulk of the phosphates are exported through the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Symposium on agricultural planning, management begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-week symposium on planning and managing the agricultural sector in Arab countries opened at the Jerusalem Hotel in Amman on Saturday. Fifteen delegates representing eight Arab states are taking part in the symposium which is organised by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank.

Addressing the opening session, Minister of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi said that countries of the Arab World are now facing deteriorating economies and he added that their food gap is continuing to widen. Dr. Lawzi, who stood in for Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhlan, said that Arab countries ought to give more

attention to the agricultural sector so that they can narrow the gap between food production and food consumption.

With this objective in mind, this symposium is being held in order that the participants can determine for increasing food production in the Arab World. Dr. Lawzi continued. Dr. Lawzi said that Jordan has been intensifying its efforts to increase crop production in irrigated land and that its experience in the Jordan Valley region is regarded as a pioneering step in this endeavour.

Also speaking at the opening session was AOAD Regional Director Abdul Hamid Al Kayed who said that the symposium was part of the AOAD's activities and programmes to promote agricultural development.

Ministry, UNESCO launch educational planning course

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education on Saturday opened a nine-day training course on educational planning in Jordan.

The special course has been organised by the ministry in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Dr. Ahmad Bashaieh, the ministry's secretary general, opened the course on behalf of Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali, with a speech outlining the ministry's educational policies and he also underlined the importance of planning for education in the country. Educational planning remains the most effective means for the development of manpower and material resources and the success of the ministry's programmes depends largely on sound planning in overall

spending, the purchase of materials and equipment, buildings and other services, Dr. Bashaieh said.

Attending the course are 19 senior officials from educational departments around the Kingdom. They will be discussing trends in educational planning, educational expansion during the current five-year development plan, statistics in education and educational economics.

Also to be discussed are the future demands on education, population growth and the people's educational needs and preparing budgets for educational departments.

During Saturday's session, two of the participants presented working papers dealing with school buildings, educational curricula and principles of educational planning.

IDECO plans expansion of electricity network in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) will spend JD 12 million on electrification projects during the current five-year development plan. Of this sum, IDECO will provide 40 per cent of the funds and the remainder will be made available through loans, according to IDECO Director Abdul Ra'uf Al Sheikh in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

He said that the company plans to supply electricity to 90 villages and population centres and will carry out expansion projects on

the present power networks within its concession in the Irbid region.

At present, Mr. Sheikh said that IDECO provides power to 275 villages and towns in the northern regions of Jordan and he added that this year the company plans to complete a project to supply electricity to 42 villages.

The five-year plan, he said, provides for supplying electric power to light roads and highways within the municipality of Irbid and its districts.

CAEU economic experts open preparatory meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) on Saturday opened a three-day meeting for economic experts who will prepare the ground for a meeting by Arab ministers of planning later this year. The experts will review working papers and studies presented by various Arab governments and by the CAEU's general secretariat. Addressing the experts' meeting was CAEU Secretary

General Mahdi Al Obeidi who underlined the importance of planning for economic development and coordination in this respect between Arab countries. He also reviewed the CAEU's experiments in trying to help Arab countries attain economic integration.

Taking part in the meeting are delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Libya and experts from economic organisations in the Arab World.

Jordan condemns bombings and supports France

(Continued from page 1)

bomb attacks in Paris.

"Syria was among the first to condemn these acts, particularly against France, which among Western countries adopted the most equitable attitude towards just Arab causes," the radio said. It noted that France had refused to allow its airspace to be used by U.S. jets which bombed Libya in April in reprisal for what Washington said was Libyan support for terrorism.

Tripoli denied the charge and Damascus said last month it would see any new U.S. assault on Libya as aimed also at Syria.

The radio voiced concern that

an anti-terrorism campaign might lead to aggression against Arab countries, and said Israel was the leading advocate of such a policy. "Talk of terrorism has from the beginning aimed at accusing certain Arab states without any proof or suspicion against them, the radio said.

It drew a distinction between "acts of terrorism and national resistance against occupation, suppression, injustice and usurpation of rights."

A group of five prominent Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have published a statement condemning the wave of bombings in Paris.

"We have been shocked by the sorrowful news from France of repeated terrorist attacks and the death of many innocent victims," said the statement on the front page of the east Jerusalem Palestinian newspaper Al Fajr.

"We proclaim our strong condemnation of these terrorist acts and condemn those who are responsible."

The statement was signed by the newspaper's editor Hanna Seniora, Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme, deposed Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, Raymond Tawil, head of the Palestine Press Service, and Gaza lawyer Zohair Rayyas.

Bombers threaten more attacks against France

(Continued from page 1)

any involvement in the bombings that began Sept. 8. A woman among those wanted, Caroline Baber Al Bitar, also surfaced in Lebanon, telling reporters in Tripoli that she had not left her home village since July.

All nine are believed to be members of FARL. Police say the committee of solidarity is probably an emanation of FARL.

The committee ridiculed French accusations against the Abdullah brothers and said: "Why not also accuse George's mother ... of the last operation we carried out in Montparnasse."

Another group called the Partisans of Right and Freedom also has claimed responsibility for the bombings, but French police have tended to discount that organisation as opportunist.

Premier Jacques Chirac

convened his internal security council Saturday to discuss the situation. It was the third such meeting in a week. Officials refused to give any details of the session.

Despite the growing number of prime suspects that keep turning up in Lebanon, police remained convinced that the FARL connection is the key to their investigation. Reliable witnesses have identified Abdullah brothers Robert at the scene of one bombing and Emile, along with a second man, Salim Al Khouri, at another.

Tight security measures continued in Paris, with police patrolling the streets, checking identities and suspicious objects. Private security guards routinely checked shoppers' packages.

Reuter adds: Despite their differences, Socialist President

Francois Mitterrand and conservative Premier Chirac have publicly expressed their agreement in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Mitterrand, on his return from a visit to Indonesia Friday night, was greeted by Mr. Chirac at the airport and both men had a 50-minute meeting later at the Elysee presidential palace. No details were given.

Presidential sources said Mr. Mitterrand was likely to address the nation on television in the near future, although no date had been fixed.

Mr. Mitterrand was due to confer with Defence Minister Andre Giraud and General Rene Imbot, head of the French secret service (DGSE), later on Saturday, a presidential spokeswoman said.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

The economic crisis — is there a solution?

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

OFFICIALS and economists are under pressure to come up with a solution to end the present economic recession, and return the days of the boom the country had experienced and enjoyed for many years in the 70s and early 80s.

The private sector thinks that the government holds all the cards and must waste no time in adopting policies and implementing decisions that ought to help the economic recovery.

Government, having experimented with many measures so far, has become of the opinion that the private sector may, after all, have the solution. Accordingly, the government has formed an eleven-member consultative economic council, headed by the prime minister, with six members from the private sector's formal institutions.

After four years of trial and

error, and after becoming slaves of our own definition of the problem, it is time to reconsider the set of assumptions on which we base positions, demands, expectations and objectives.

A major assumption is the one which presumes that there is definitely a solution to the present situation, and all that is needed is a genius or a group of geniuses to discover the magic formula that would lead us out of recession and back to the economic boom.

This mischievous assumption has led to a chain of unnecessary disappointments, and to unfair judgments of failure on officials who, presumably, have failed to bring back the sought recovery.

Time is ripe to acknowledge that what we complain of is not an exceptional period resulting from internal or external factors that lend themselves to remedy, or that

the situation is no more than the bottom point in a business cycle which is apt to disappear by itself if only we could be patient. The recovery according to this line of thinking is around the corner.

The fact is that the exceptional period is not the present one starting in 1982, but rather the past which occurred between 1975-1982 (the seven rich years) when, out of a sudden, we had in the Gulf an unlimited labour market for our workers and graduates, an open market for our agricultural and industrial products, and a generous financial support for our treasury all of which enabled the government to invest lavishly in all kinds of projects, feasible and otherwise, and helped our balance of payments to accumulate surpluses without any effort, or despite our efforts to overspend like any other oil-producing country.

These exceptional, external factors created a huge economic boom which suddenly started to decline, almost simultaneously with the decline in the oil market and the decline in Gulf states revenues. The Arab labour market is not any more capable of accommodating our surplus manpower, the Gulf markets are no more willing to purchase our export products and Arab financial aid is no more sufficient to cover 50 per cent of our budget and help us to accumulate reserves in foreign exchange.

The appropriate objective therefore is not to recover the boom. Making impossible aims will not serve a good purpose. On the contrary it renders the job of politicians embarrassing indeed. The first step in the right direction is to acknowledge that the present situation is a fact to reckon with, and that we ought to live it and

adjust accordingly.

The trading sector complains, for example, that imports have dropped by 20 per cent. The question must be whether we should have allowed ourselves in the first place to import goods and services in excess of two thirds of our gross domestic product (GDP).

The Ministry of Finance complains of a huge deficit in the order of 15 per cent of our GDP. The question must be whether we should have a budget as large as two thirds of our GDP.

Our youths suffer an unemployment in the neighbourhood of 10 per cent of our manpower or perhaps 70 per cent of our new graduates. The question must be whether we have to admit some 150 thousand non-Jordanian labour, a substantial part of which are

accountants, clerks, guards, telephone operators, hostesses and nurses.

True, we face a big problem. But the problem is not the lack of commercial activity or banking liquidity, it is our inability to adjust our positions and our reluctance to go back to our real ability.

This suggestion, I know, is not popular, and perhaps that is why no government is ready to adopt it. We may have to re-educate our public opinion through constructive dialogue. We are of the opinion that our people are qualified to comprehend the realities, shoulder the responsibilities, and accept reasonable sacrifices, provided of course, that the burdens are distributed fairly in the same proportions that the exceptional benefits of the boom were distributed.

With France

FRANCE is shaking with anger and disbelief in the aftermath of the series of terrorist attacks directed against French citizens and government offices and which claimed the lives of many innocent people and injured scores more. In Paris, bombs were planted in public places, shops, trains and busy government offices in a clear bid to affect the highest possible human toll and to terrorise a nation. The attacks, claimed by a shadowy extremist group calling for the release of several detainees in France, have been unprecedented in the history of urban terrorism and seem to have transformed the French capital into another typical Middle Eastern blood bath.

Although the latest casualty in this confrontation is the French military attaché in Beirut, he might not be the last. Those responsible for last week's bombings seem determined to strike again in their bid to free their jailed comrades. That, however, may not be their only aim at the moment.

As observers of the Lebanese scene, we cannot but conclude that the latest cycle of violence is directed against French involvement in the Middle East and its foreign policy. Those responsible for the Paris bombings seem to be the same people responsible for last month's attacks against the French contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Southern Lebanon (UNIFIL). Observers note that elements of Hizbollah, an extremist Shi'ite organisation allied with Iran, were behind the attacks on the French soldiers. In Beirut, observers note that Islamic Jihad, largely believed to be a terrorist unit within Hizbollah, has claimed responsibility for many suicide bomb attacks, skyjackings and kidnappings directed against French and American citizens and institutions. The tactics were always similar: first kidnap or bomb a target, then demand as a quid pro quo the release of jailed comrades in Kuwait or in Europe. Moreover, France seems to be paying a heavy price for its support of Iraq in its war with Iran and for its policies in Chad, frequently denounced as pro-colonialist and pro-Arabian by Libyan officials. By means of their proxies in Lebanon, both Libya and Iran have carried out several attacks against French interests there. It is no secret either that the Israelis have frequently attacked France's balanced view of the Arab-Israeli conflict and have recently renewed their calls for the withdrawal of UNIFIL troops from South Lebanon.

Terrorism today, whether originating from individuals or states, is a Damoclean sword hanging over our lives and our future. It is imperative that efforts be made to combat and uproot it, although these efforts should be accompanied by serious endeavours to solve the issues and dilemmas which give the scourge the fertile environment in which to grow and spread. We stand today with the French nation in condemning this senseless violence, and in mourning the victims of this last episode of terrorism.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Support for De Cuellar

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has told the General Assembly in New York that the real solution to the difficulties which face the United Nations force in South Lebanon lies with a total Israeli withdrawal from the territory. For this reason, he called on the United Nations to take proper measures to ensure such withdrawal and to force Israel to leave Lebanese territory. This is a brave stand which reminds the international community of the presence and the importance of the United Nations as a catalyst for peace. The call by itself represents an explanation of the present difficulties of the United Nations force that has been sent to Lebanon to help preserve peace. This call indicates that nothing can be done now to restore peace except through a withdrawal of Israeli forces which can help bring about stability and peace to Lebanon. The statement is a reminder to the world organisation of its duty to preserve peace and to protect the interests of all nations. The world community should not spare any effort in forcing Israel to comply with its resolutions calling for a withdrawal from Arab land, an essential step for the re-establishment of peace. Israel has not yet replied to this statement but it is certain to refuse the call and to accuse De Cuellar of anti-Semitism or even claim he supports terrorism. The international community should not allow Israel to exercise blackmail or pressure against the secretary general, but should rather respond favourably to his call and work for the achievement of peace.

Al Dustour: Israel defies U.N.

IT is now clear that Israel and its militia in South Lebanon are destabilising peace and fuelling the civil war inside Lebanon. The recent military operations in the region are the best reminder of this, and show that the Israeli-backed militia are facing one defeat after another at the hands of the Lebanese resistance forces. Israel, in reply to attacks on its allies, has responded with an announcement that it would extend support and more assistance to them in an attempt to maintain Israeli presence in the region. But we are sure that Israel will think twice before involving itself in the situation in the south in view of the earlier blows it received at the hand of the resistance, as any moves would endanger its forces and the self-proclaimed security zone in the south. In view of the recent developments and the attacks on the United Nations forces, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has urged the United Nations to impose sanctions on Israel to force it to withdraw from South Lebanon. The secretary general realises that Israel's presence in that territory has been causing so much trouble to the U.N. force and destabilising peace and security in the area. Israel's announced intention of extending support and help to its militia constitutes a flagrant defiance of the United Nations and its principles; and the international community should now heed De Cuellar's call and help establish security in Lebanon.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran continues aggression

THE Iranian regime has been accustomed to escalating its acts of aggression on Iraq and sending thousands of men to their death every time new calls for peace have been raised in any part of the world. Whenever the Iranians mass troops along the Iraqi border they claim that it would be the last offensive that would destroy Iraq and topple its regime, but every time the Iranians have been defeated in battle and had to face shame and humiliation. Despite all the defeats and the destruction of the Iranian economy and the numerous casualties they suffer, the Iranians repeat the attacks and launch new offensives and tell the world that it would be the last before being defeated again. With the repeated defeats the Iranians are losing more and more men, their economy is now in shambles and the internal situation in Iran is endangered. What is more, the whole Gulf region has become exposed to foreign intervention. The long sufferings and the defeats they faced at the hand of the Iraqi armed forces should by now have taught the Iranians a good lesson: that they can never achieve their ambitions by force.

Election may help restore Austria's international image

By David Storey
Reuter

VIENNA — Austria, emerging from a period of domestic political drift, is set for a general election which could help restore its international image.

The election, planned for November 23, follows a series of domestic and international scandals that have marred the latter stages of a 16-year rule by the Socialist Party (SPOE).

Political sources said a "grand coalition" between the two biggest parties, the SPOE and the conservative People's Party (OEPV), a form of government that was abandoned 20 years ago, was the most likely outcome.

This would exclude the extreme right-wing Freedom Party (FPOE), which has been in coalition with the Socialists, and provide a broad basis for solving economic problems including rising unemployment and falling foreign trade.

The final trigger for the election, brought forward from next April, was a right-wing coup in the (FPOE), last weekend.

The FPOE leadership was seized by Joerg Haider, who built up a power base particularly among nationalist groups in the southern province of Carinthia, where there has long been tension prompted by treatment of the Slovene minority.

This was the last of several political bombshells that revived charges that some Austrians had still not shaken off the pan-German, ultra-nationalist attitude that made some of them loyal servants of German Nazis in World War II.

In June former U.N. chief Kurt Waldheim was elected president despite fierce attacks from Jewish groups who said he covered up his service with the German army during its bloody Balkan campaign in the 1940s.

Apart from several ministerial intrigues, the Austrian image of a clean-living, warm-hearted Alpine land has been soiled by a wine-falsifying scandal and losses of billions of schillings by major state industries.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who took over after the ineffective Fred Showtzwitz resigned in June, has brought a new style to Socialist Party rule that many Austrians

believe could help clear up the image and inject new life into the economy.

Political commentators expect the November poll will leave neither the SPOE nor the opposition People's Party (OEPV) with an absolute majority, and are preparing for a "grand coalition."

The coalition ruled in the post war years as the impoverished Alpine state, under four-power occupation until 1955, struggled to build a new democratic and economic system.

But by 1966, when the OEPV won an overall majority, the coalition had become threadbare and rent by bickering.

A commentator in the popular Kronen Zeitung newspaper wrote this week that "a vehicle that was sent for scrap years ago is now supposed to serve as a sound vehicle for the muddy and rut-ridden paths of our political landscape."

But opinion polls indicate a built-in balance in the system makes an overall majority beyond either of the big parties at this stage, and, with major problems looming for the economy, a consensus solution seems almost inevitable.

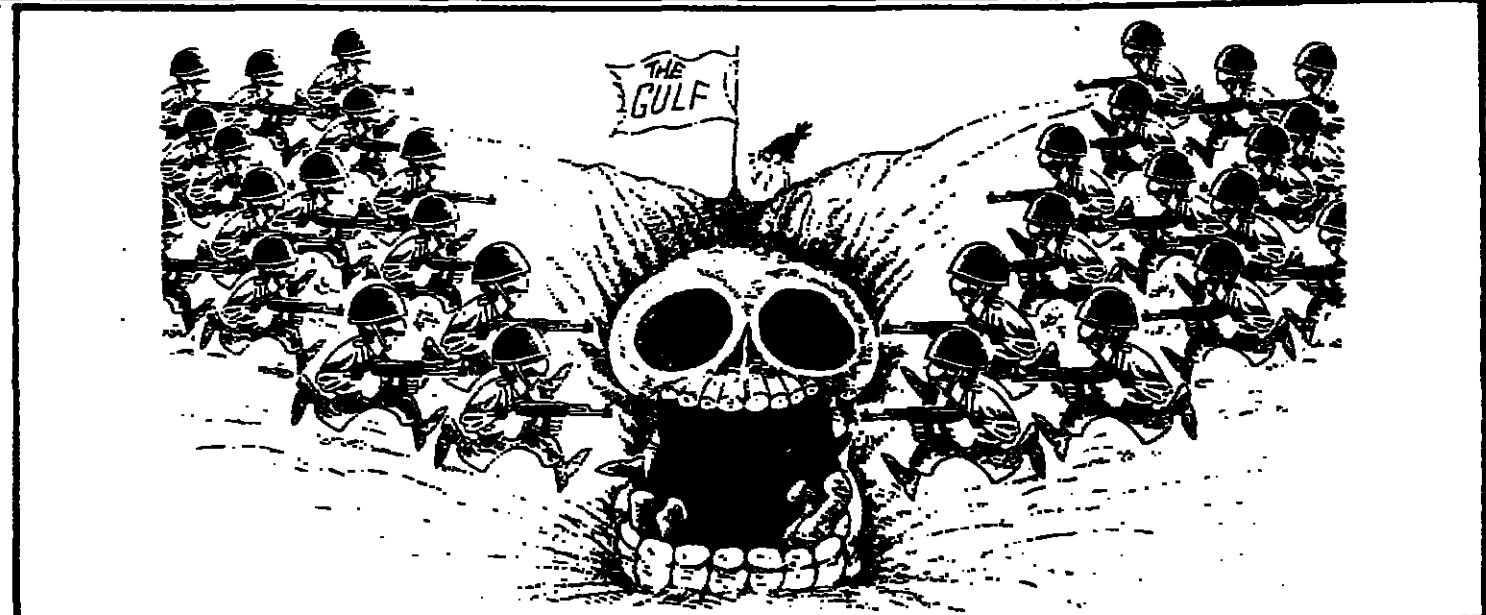
The concept of political cooperation is anyway built into the system, with a tradition of party balance on the management boards of major state-run companies.

Losses by these companies, long fed subsidies by a Socialist Party determined to keep unemployment low, have developed as the central economic problem for Austria.

Vranitzky, 48, former finance minister and a banker by background whose charm and authority is openly admitted even by his opponents, grabbed the state industry nettle as soon as he took office.

A package of job cuts and rationalisation revealed this month cut much of the ground out from the OEPV, which had been holding a steady lead in opinion polls for months.

Vranitzky and the less charismatic OEPV leader Alois Mock, 52, have both indicated that, although preferring a solo rule, they would be prepared to serve in a coalition with each other.



Changing perceptions in the Gulf

The following article, by Nadim Jaber is reprinted from Sept. 12's issue of Middle East International, London.

ALTHOUGH the current upsurge in fighting between Iraq and Iran has caused understandable alarm in the Gulf, it may be setting the stage for a realignment of forces that could provide the Arab states of the region with some consolation.

The escalation — on land, sea and air — has lent credence to the school of thought which holds that only when things get worse will the outside world be roused from its perceived indifference to the blood-letting. Developments on the battlefield and in the oil market have suggested to the six members of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that their U.S. allies may yet emerge from the shadows to pay more attention to the "forgotten war."

A change in America's attitude was hinted at in a recent series of briefings and officially-inspired leaks suggesting that Iraq could be defeated. The Gulf states, for whom an Iranian victory is the worst scenario imaginable, have tended to take a sceptical view of the military aspect of these reports. The argument that while Iran certainly has been demonstrating that it has the upper hand in the conflict, it still cannot conceivably install its own regime in Baghdad, let alone sweep aside the outnumbered, but nonetheless formidable, Iraqi army. Instead, the declarations from Washington

have been read in the Gulf as signs of American readiness to throw more weight behind attempts to end the war, and at least to consider the eventuality of committing military might to support its friends in the Gulf.

In GCC eyes, the heightened concern lies partly in the effects on superpower strategy in the region of the latest fluctuations in the oil market. The oil price war which dominated the first three quarters of this year has squeezed both combatants enough for Iran to feel compelled to step up military pressure on Iraq and political pressure on Iraq's GCC financiers, in a bid to strengthen its position on the ground before the economic drain of the war becomes unbearable. A series of successes last week, at Haj Omran in the northern battlefield, and the destruction of important radar facilities at two disused Iraqi offshore terminals, have been presented as mere appetisers prior to forthcoming assaults for which a massive mobilisation, reportedly scheduled to be completed by mid-September, has been under way throughout the country.

Although Majlis speaker Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani recently denied that the build-up heralds the Islamic Republic's much trumpeted "final offensive" against Iraq, both sides' communications testify to a rare intensity in the generally unreported day-to-day skirmishes along the border.

The Iraqi response has been to hit Iran where by its own

admission it is most vulnerable. The August 12 raids on Sirri island oil terminal have been followed by almost daily Iraqi air and missile strikes against refineries, factories and other "economic targets", leading to inevitable retaliations that threaten a full-scale return to the 1981 reciprocal bombardment of population centres. Iran's Kurdish allies have simultaneously been mobilised to add to the pressure in northern Iran, promoting Baghdad to call in the Turkish airforce to raid Kurdish villages, reportedly killing 200 people. The tanker war, too, has gained momentum, with airstrikes against ships by both sides reaching further afield than ever before.

No relief was provided by the implementation on September 1 of OPEC's Iranian-demanded production cutback. Though hailed in Tehran as a triumph over Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, whose earlier price-cutting it deemed a conspiracy to starve it of revenue, Iran may find the move heralds some unwelcome side-effects. Iraq's Sirri raid caused a hiccup in a world oil market that had become resolutely immune over the past two years to almost anything that went on in the Gulf. With the prospect of 3 m b/d worth of OPEC cuts tightening the market further, the West is again eyeing the conflict through the only looking-glass it knows how to use: that of oil. The realisation that any dramatic escalation has the potential again to affect Western economies seems to have awakened a few sleeping dogs in Washington.

The urgency apparent in Iran's war preparations has also raised domestic fears among Gulf governments. When the Saudis and Kuwaitis agreed to reverse their oil policy, speculation was rife about a political deal involving Iranian de-escalation and promises to leave the Gulf states alone, in exchange for reduced GCC support for Iraq. Nothing of the sort materialised. Instead, the delicate pendulum of Iranian-GCC relations, always swinging between studied correctness and verge of undeclared war, has again tilted towards hostility, with Iran flexing its muscles conspicuously in the direction of its rich but vulnerable small neighbours.

Iran's 150,000-strong contingent at the Muslim Hajj (pilgrimage) held provocative demonstrations and "seminars" in Mecca and Medina. Over 100 were arrested for security offences by the Saudis, only to be embarrassingly released after public threats from Tehran, despite Iranian opposition claims that the detained pilgrims were saboteurs sent to bomb GCC oil installations. Rafsanjani threatened to attack the Gulf states supporting Iraq if they "overdo it and we cannot tolerate it any longer," and his words have been echoed extensively by other officials.

One response to Iran's belligerence seems to be that the GCC states have toned down their opposition to outside intervention in the region, or even their

once-hallowed principle of self-reliance in the event of an escalation. This impression was reinforced by what wasn't said after last month's GCC ministerial conference in Abha, Saudi Arabia. Recent high-level visits by U.S. officials and military planners to the region, coupled with reports of shortcomings in the much-heralded GCC collective defence force, add up to a feeling that the Gulf States are almost keen for the outside intervention they once dreaded. Indeed, even Iraq's latest peace proposals differ from their innumerable ignored predecessors mainly in calling for superpower guarantees for a halt to hostilities.

Iran treated the initiatives with the same disdain Iraq showed for suggestions that attacks on industrial towns be stopped. While there are no overt signs of a waning in Iranian enthusiasm for the war, there have been hints that Tehran may one day agree to peace terms which — while inconceivable without a major shift in the military power-balance — appear to fall short of demanding the installation of a fully-fledged Tehran-style regime in Baghdad. Rafsanjani declared that even if a new Iraqi government "not to our liking" was established, Tehran may end the war in exchange for reparations. This shift from earlier maximalist positions implies that Iran's present aggressiveness also conceals an element of war-weariness within Khomeini's regime, something which Ayatollah Khomeini himself alluded to in his Eid Al Adha address to the country's leadership.

With this background, Gulf rulers feel most threatened by Iran precisely because it needs results quickly, hence the apparent willingness to huddle under the American umbrella. This would certainly fall short, at least for the time being, of direct military involvement. But a commitment from Washington to prevent the re-arming of Iran (by China, Israel and Western traders) coupled with an American deterrent role, seems uppermost in the minds of the Gulf states.

There have been suggestions that Washington may be encouraged to venture deeper into the region by the recent Iranian-Soviet rapprochement. Moscow has secured itself the status of an indispensable trading partner after agreeing to buy at least 30 m cubic metres daily of Iranian gas, probably much more, in an accord which will lessen Iran's reliance both on the vagaries of the oil market and the accuracy of Iraqi bomber pilots. While signs of a strategic shift in superpower attitudes to the Gulf are far from conclusive, Moscow is said to fear that the warming of Iraqi relations with Washington may in the long term set the stage for Baghdad eventually "doing a Sadat" on the Russians, should circumstances make the U.S. option tempting to President Saddam Hussein or his successors. Moscow's role in sustaining the Iraqi war effort notwithstanding.

Giscard d'Estaing comeback sows the seeds of confusion among French right

By Alan Phillips
Reuter

ROYAN, France — Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has set off a scramble for the starting blocks of the 1988 presidential elections with an announcement that he plans to stay at the heart of French politics.

Giscard d'Estaing, 60, signalled he was not ready to take a back seat to younger men in a speech to young supporters last month pledging to work for a strong centre party.

His move sent a shock wave through the ruling rightist alliance. Politicians wondered if the former president might be preparing a new presidential bid.

"Giscard is a political dinosaur," commented one member of the Republican Party, a centre-right group founded by Giscard d'Estaing but now led by his former protégé, 44-year-old Culture Minister Francois Leotard.

"We all owe Giscard a big debt and respect his talents," he added, "but he is a man of the past."

The ex-president, however, did not look like slipping into the role of elder statesman when he made a star appearance at an informal Republican Party gathering in the Atlantic beach resort to Royan late last month.

More than 1,000 guests at an outdoor banquet shivered for two hours in the early autumn chill as they waited for his speech while he passed from table to table, shaking hands, chatting and joking.

As his bald but well-tanned head bobbed among the diners, he could have been back on the campaign trail, five years after losing the presidency to the Socialist candidate, Francois Mitterrand.

He dampened the speculation about a possible candidacy, saying his initiative, made a few days before at an annual summer school of young Giscard supporters, had been misinterpreted.

"When I have something to say, I say it clearly," he chided.

His supporters were nevertheless pleased he had returned to centre stage after months of eclipse under Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist RPR party.

Chirac, no friend of Giscard d'Estaing since they fell out in 1976, refused to give the ex-president any senior post in his government, even though they were allies in the March general elections.

According to Giscard d'Estaing, the time is now ripe to reconcile the French around a strong centre party.

He says support in the opinion

polls for the five-month-old power-sharing arrangement between Mitterrand, a Socialist, and Chirac, a conservative, bears out his theory.

"The distance between moderate rightists and realistic socialists is no longer so great as to justify politics being conducted like a civil war," he said.

He pledged to revive the UDF, a flimsy electoral alliance of six disparate centre-right groups, into a powerful force — "the keel which gives France its stability."

It is not the first time that Giscard d'Estaing has surprised France by refusing to retire from the rough and tumble of politics.

The first president to be voted out of office under the 28-year-old Fifth Republic, he insisted on standing again for parliament.

For many people, the sight of Giscard d'Estaing on the benches of the National Assembly heightened the sense of downfall from the presidency — an office with near regal powers in France.

His call for unity, however, served only to accentuate the divisions of the UDF by raising the questions of who would stand for president.

Its full name, Union for French Democracy, is taken from a book by Giscard d'Estaing, but he is only one of several leaders vying

for control.

Junior partner in the ruling coalition dominated by Prime Minister Chirac's RPR party, the UDF has at least three possible candidates to challenge the premier for the rightist vote.

Among those standing in the way of a possible Giscard d'Estaing candidacy is former Premier Raymond Barre. He is banking on voters rejecting the dominant figures of left and right of the moment — Mitterrand and Chirac.

Then there is Leotard, who has reshaped Giscard d'Estaing's Republican Party into the biggest single element in the alliance.

The "golden boy" of the French right, Leotard has made no secret of his presidential ambitions, despite his small experience of public office.

He pointedly ignored Giscard d'Estaing's calls for a union of the centre, telling his supporters that the party would pursue its "long march" towards a free market economy liberated from state control.

In an effort to control the jockeying for position prompted by Giscard d'Estaing's return to the scene, the UDF political bureau ruled that the alliance would put forward only one candidate for the presidential elections.

BBC explores 'The Genius of Arab Civilisation' in new series

"THE Genius of Arab Civilisation" is the subject of a major new series on the BBC Arabic Service starting on Tuesday, October 7.

The series is to explore the extent and influence of Arab civilisation throughout Europe and Middle East and concentrates on the period from the 8th to the 14th centuries. "Europe was asleep during the Middle Ages," says Producer Siham Karmi, "and I am attempting to survey the scientific awakening brought about by Arab civilisation in that period. It laid the foundations on which the European renaissance was later built."

Language played a significant part in the awakening, with translation to and from Arabic into Greek, Latin, Persian and Sanskrit, facilitating the spread of knowledge throughout the Islamic

world and Europe.

Miss Karmi has taken a broad view, looking at the influence of both the exact sciences such as mathematics, astronomy and physics, and what she calls the non-exact, including medicine, chemistry, pharmacology, alchemy and astrology.

"Philosophy," as she says, "comes into everything."

In her search, Miss Karmi draws on a wide range of expertise in the Middle East, Europe and the United States. Among them are Dr. Albert Iskander, Professor of the History of Medicine, the Wellcome Foundation, London, Professor A. H. Sabra, Professor of the History of Arabic Science, Harvard University, U.S.A., and Dr. R. Rashid, a mathematician at the National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris.



Dr. Albert Iskander, Professor of the History of Medicine, the Wellcome Foundation, London, shows Siham Karmi of the BBC Arabic Service some rare Arabic medical manuscripts for the series "The Genius of Arab Civilisation." — Photo by BBC

Debate rages on whether Pan Am pilots should have left Karachi plane

By Jeanne King
Reuters

NEW YORK — A debate is raging from flight attendants to pilots to passengers over whether the cockpit crew of Pan Am flight 73 should have escaped shortly after hijackers took over their plane in Pakistan with 384 passengers aboard.

Pan Am insists the cockpit crew were following procedures outlined in "the common strategy," an anti-terrorist training programme now mandatory for U.S. pilots.

That "common strategy," worked out by the FBI, the Federal Aviation Administration, security experts and airlines, is at the heart of the controversy.

The programme, which includes lessons in basic psychology for crisis situations, contends that an immobilised plane will give negotiators more time to reason with air pirates and one way to ensure the plane stays on the ground is for the pilots to escape.

But an airline consumers' group says the plan cut the chain of command on board, leaving no one who knew how to operate the plane's emergency systems or even their radio.

"You can hardly call the strategy a success when 20 people lost their lives and over 100 people were injured, perhaps permanently," charges Peter Baron, executive director of the National Centre for Air Travel Safety (NCATS).

He adds, "you can't give a flight attendant a battle field promotion to captain the minute a terrorist pulls out a gun."

Flight 73's two pilots and the flight engineer left the cockpit through an escape hatch soon after they heard gunshots in what was the start of a 17-hour siege at Karachi airport on September 5.

At least 21 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in the storming of the plane.

Henry Duffy, president of the Air Line Pilots Association defends their escape, saying, the new guidelines were "the right decision to render the airplane immovable. And that's exactly what the crew did."

Captain John Testrake, the TWA pilot who stayed aboard his plane when it was hijacked to Lebanon last year, applauded the Pan Am pilot's decision to leave their ship.

"It's just better that the plane was immobilised and then they

couldn't use it as an airplane," said Testrake.

NCATS' Baron, a pilot and flight engineer, agreed that it was important to keep a hijacked plane on the ground, but stressed that there was a better way.

He said immobilisation could have been achieved by shooting out the tyres.

"The tyres are almost as big a target as a person, only tyres don't move. By knocking them out, you are effectively buying time and you still have a cockpit crew aboard."

"Once the crew escaped, the chain of command was severed and there was no one on the jet trained to control any of the support or emergency systems in the cockpit...."

"Remember, the direct cause of the final shootings by the hijackers wasn't because their demands weren't being met. It was because the lights went out."

"Had there been someone knowledgeable aboard who could have explained to the hijackers that the auxiliary power unit was about to shut down because they were low on fuel, the hijackers wouldn't have panicked."

A Pan Am flight attendant, who declined to be named, told

Reuters that no flight attendant knew how to operate the circuit breakers or support equipment in the cockpit.

"If we're going to be left in charge of a 40 million or 50 million dollar piece of equipment and those men are going to walk off and leave it to 13 women who are not trained as engineers, it's kind of a wild strategy on their part, isn't it?" she said.

She added she was appalled that the crew left the cockpit. "If the crew is going to leave, the plane, then flight attendants have to be made aware of how to protect themselves," said another Pan Am stewardess.

Martin Shugrue, vice chairman of Pan Am, said the cockpit crew's escape from the jet was "a textbook execution of exactly what these airmen are trained to do."

Pan Am spokesman James Arey also defended the actions of the cockpit crew. "Each situation is different and obviously that crew made the decision that it was possible and appropriate and the best thing to do," he said.

"But we have to be careful that we don't turn it into an absolutely black-and-white situation."

'Judicial holiday' should include judges as well

By Jalal Abbassi

The writer is a prominent Jordanian lawyer and writer. His article is translated from Al Rai Arabic daily.

THE lawyers' annual holiday in Jordan is erroneously referred to as the "judicial holiday", simply because the name is irrelevant. This holiday does not include the courts or involve judges and magistrates but is actually practised by a number of lawyers wishing to leave from work at their own convenience. This situation calls for re-examination, and the holiday in its present form warrants its cancellation altogether because it is actually harmful to the interests of the general public.

This year, the Jordanian lawyers decided to take their leave in August, as they usually do every

year. What did this mean in practice?

It meant first of all that dates for court hearings scheduled for the middle of July had to be postponed until the middle of September entailing a delay of 50 whole days of court sessions. Second, after the holiday and the return of lawyers to work a large proportion of cases would have to be put off until October to allow

OPINION

extra time for lawyers to acquire documents and other papers which they failed to obtain in view of the holiday. This in turn entails a further delay of 15 more days. Third, as the cases and files pile up on the judges' desks because of the lawyers' absence during the holiday the courts would definitely start postponing cases until late September which means

another 15 days of delay of court hearings. By now, a total of 60 days have been wasted as indeed happened over the past few years.

Does the situation warrant a cancellation of lawyers' holidays?

In fact, one cannot deprive lawyers of their holiday, but here we are confronted with a situation whereby the idea of a real judicial holiday has become necessary and ought to come into being. What is required is an annual holiday involving a suspension of the work of lawyers and courts altogether, but at the same time, allowing for emergency cases to be dealt with since there always exist those types of cases that do not tolerate any delay.

There must be a judicial holiday in Jordan, one that both judges and lawyers can together benefit from, rather than allowing themselves leave of work at different times, causing a great deal of inconvenience to people

and damage to public interests.

It so often happens that people involved in cases at court find themselves staring at signs on a judge's door declaring that he is on leave and that cases that he was scheduled to examine have been referred to his colleagues. The other colleagues, as is mainly the case, turn out to be already overburdened with their own work, and so, they are forced to postpone looking into their own cases until later dates.

These are mere ideas which I propose to the Jordanian Jurists Association, the Bar Association, the Ministry of Justice and the Judicial Council. All groups are well aware of the situation at present, and I hope they will support the idea of a judicial holiday after which they could assume their normal duty uninterrupted and in a manner that can ensure the interest of all parties and the public at large.

Soviets try gentler touch on their problem youth

Like the West, the Soviet Union has problems with its youth — sex, drugs and a rock cult. A Financial Times special correspondent discusses how it is learning to cope with a small, but growing, trend.

MOSCOW — The traditional image of wholesome Soviet lads and lasses untainted by capitalist evils like drug abuse, easy sex and wild rock music is changing as Moscow's leaders reach out to a younger generation reared in greater material comfort and knowledge of the outside world than its parents.

The Soviets are not, however, encouraging the mass cult of the young that has spawned enormous industries of fashion and rock music in the West. No public pop culture exists in the Soviet Union.

Young people can nonetheless bewilder their parents, and others removed from the bush telegraph of word-of-mouth contacts and swaps of tapes and videos that help young Soviets set their style.

Punk-style haircuts can be seen in Moscow and Leningrad and some urban youth in the European Soviet Union, while raised in a very different environment and not disloyal to their system, can increasingly resemble their Western peers in looks and behaviour.

Higher earnings, the spoiling of offspring and greater contact with the outside world through tourists, radio and video (soon to be

followed by satellite TV) mean more and more young Soviets have the money and attitudes to follow trends seeping through their borders. A lack of consumer goods at home, and the scarcity of cars and apartments (almost all Soviet young people live at home), encourage spending on tempting foreign goodies.

Taste often runs far ahead of what the state-run media and the Young Communist League offer. While pop music seen on television tends to be sugary and light, heavy metal and punk bands have a definite following.

Groups with names like Cinema, the Sounds of Music or Aquarium have acquired fans by distributing their own tapes recorded after-hours in studios because the state recording firm Melodiya would never touch their work.

Moscow and Leningrad have acted to control such mushrooming rock groups by establishing rock laboratories where bands can rehearse and granting occasional, small concerts. Audiences for such music now extend beyond the children of the elite who first got hooked on the Beatles 20 years

ago. But most groups remain highly derivative of Western models.

Indeed, a major difficulty for both independent-minded youth and the state is to find a uniquely Soviet style with broad appeal. In music, this has been achieved only by balladeers in the mould of Vladimir Vysotsky — a razor-voiced actor-singer adored by all ages who died in 1980 and is now winning official recognition. Fashions, haircuts and fads like skateboarding and break dancing come almost exclusively from the West.

Since Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, the Soviets have tried to catch up with these trends faster and thus control them more subtly. Slowly, they are realising that blatant interference, like media denunciations of Western rock and videos or the platoons of police that keep spectators seated at rock concerts conflict with young people's yearning to do things for themselves and can isolate the young.

One of the most perceptive of recent media articles on Soviet drug addicts revealed that every second or third letter to the national youth newspaper complains about bans imposed on young people.

Subtler control involves accommodating youth interests

and moving with the times. Domestic videos are now produced and some cafes, bars and restaurants show sanctioned foreign videos.

Computer dating exists in Moscow and a few other cities to overcome the loneliness of Soviet singles — often divorcees in a country where people marry young and may partswifly. Urban marriages end in divorce 30 to 50 per cent of the time, broken by the pressures of living with parents, a husband's drunkenness or women's growing intolerance of chauvinist males.

The discussion about drug abuse, and the recent establishment in Moscow of a hotline and 10 centres where addicts are assured of anonymous treatment, also denote a growing realisation that youth problems must be tackled — and serve to scare off potential addicts by publicising horror stories.

The drug problem is minimal compared to that in the West. But published interviews with parents and addicts as young as 15 reveal similar motives for smoking marijuana, sniffing glue or injecting home-made cocktails of drugs stolen from chemists: the young feel neglected by parents and teachers, are bored or disillusioned.



Sampling Dates 18-21 Sept. '86



Sampling Hours Daily

10am - 1pm
and
4.30pm - 7.30pm

Amman

- Al-Waha Stores (7th Circle)
- Al-Waddan Supermarket
- Fu'ad Supermarket

**CHEESE
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Asian Games open with fanfare and spectacle

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The 10th Asian Games, the largest-ever gathering of Asian athletes, opened yesterday with blanket security, stirring spectacle and a parade that included sports stars expected to turn in world-class performances over the next 16 days.

Regarded as a dress rehearsal for the 1988 Olympics, the Asian Games attracted nearly 4,800 athletes and officials from 27 nations.

North Korea, a political rival of host South Korea, is boycotting what it calls an "impure" event.

An estimated 100,000 people packed into Seoul's Olympic Stadium, where South Korea's President Chun Doo-hwan declared the games open during a 2-hour, 10-minute ceremony that began with the ancient "yonggo" rite to exorcise evil spirits. It also featured traditional Korean dances and 2,754 young Korean women gyrating to a disco beat.

Meanwhile, in the provincial cities of Taejeon and Pusan, first round soccer competition began. Host South Korea beat India 3-0 on a soaked field. Kuwait blanked Bangladesh 4-0. China drubbed Bahrain 5-1 and Japan shut out Nepal 5-0.

Although a chilly rain dampened some enthusiasm, the opening ceremony proceeded without incident. The only evidence of political controversy came in the parade of athletes when the delegation from Jordan appeared between those of Iran and Iraq, battlefield foes for the past six years.

Officials had conceded to demands that the two be separated, although in alphabetical order Iran would have directly followed Iraq around the oval track.

Already tight security was heightened following a bomb explosion at Seoul's International Airport last Sunday, and because of the presence of Chun and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at the ceremony.

Police formed a protective ring around the stadium, standing five metres apart, while special anti-terror commandos and horse-mounted policemen took positions around the gates.

Police patrolled inside the stadium complex with German Shepherd dogs. Spectators passed through a half-dozen check points, the last one a metal detector arch decked with roses of Sharon, Korea's national flower.

There was no evidence of the anti-government activity that has surfaced in recent weeks among students opposing the games.

One university student, interviewed outside the stadium, criticised the government for staging a "luxurious sports show."

"It is clear that many students oppose the hosting of the games just because they don't like the current regime. But I hope the games, as long as they have opened, will be successful," said the student, who insisted on anonymity.

The ceremony — which involved nearly 17,000 performers — began with the beating of six massive drums, deep-voiced chants and fanfares from traditional brass and percussion instruments.

These were followed by colourful tableaux depicting the four seasons in this country, which calls itself the "land of the morning calm."

As Chun delivered his sentence-long opening declaration, 12 helicopters circled low over the stadium, each trailing a quartet of men suspended by ropes and performing aerial stunts. Ten parachutists dropped into the stadium out of a metallic sky to strains of martial music.

The Asian Games torch was carried into the stadium by two Korean track stars, ending an eight-day, 4,050-kilometre relay by 17,000 runners. The torch was lit at the ancient city of Kyongju on the southeast coast and was used to ignite the ceremonial fire that will burn at the stadium until the closing ceremony on Oct. 5.

The delegations entered the stadium in Korean alphabetical order, with the Nepalese first. Each delegation, except Iran, was preceded by a Korean woman dressed in a white traditional costume brocaded in gold. The all-male Iranian squad, citing Muslim precepts, had insisted that a man lead their group.

The host Koreans, with 657 athletes and officials, are fielding the largest team. The smallest comes from the island nation of the Maldives, which sent seven.

The Chinese, with a crop of Olympic and world champions among them, drew rousing cheers. Chinese participation is regarded as a significant step in improving Sino-South Korean relations. The two countries have no diplomatic relations but informal ties have grown in recent years.

In an apparent special gesture of good will, all members of the Japanese team waved small South Korean flags as they passed the reviewing stand where Nakasone sat with the Korean leader.

Following a recent storm of anti-Japanese criticism in South Korea, the Japanese prime minister landed at a special air field as a security precaution on his arrival from Tokyo earlier Saturday. His visit came less than two weeks after he fired his education minister, Masayuki Fujio, who had angered Koreans by stating that Korea was partly responsible for Japan's annexation of the Korean Peninsula in 1910.

Another pre-game incident — which disturbed Korean officials trying to show that Seoul will prove an able host of the 1988 Olympics — was last Sunday's Seoul Airport explosion, which killed five Koreans and injured 31. South Korea blamed the blast on agents or sympathisers of archrival North Korea, which has denied involvement.

The games' first medals come today in swimming, cycling, gymnastics, shooting and weightlifting.

China, which took over from Japan as Asia's no. 1 sports power in the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi, was expected to dominate the medal tally. China, not long ago a sports midget, emerged sixth in the medals race at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Experts say Japan and South Korea will be battling for second place, while India, Indonesia and Pakistan will trail these Asian sports powers.

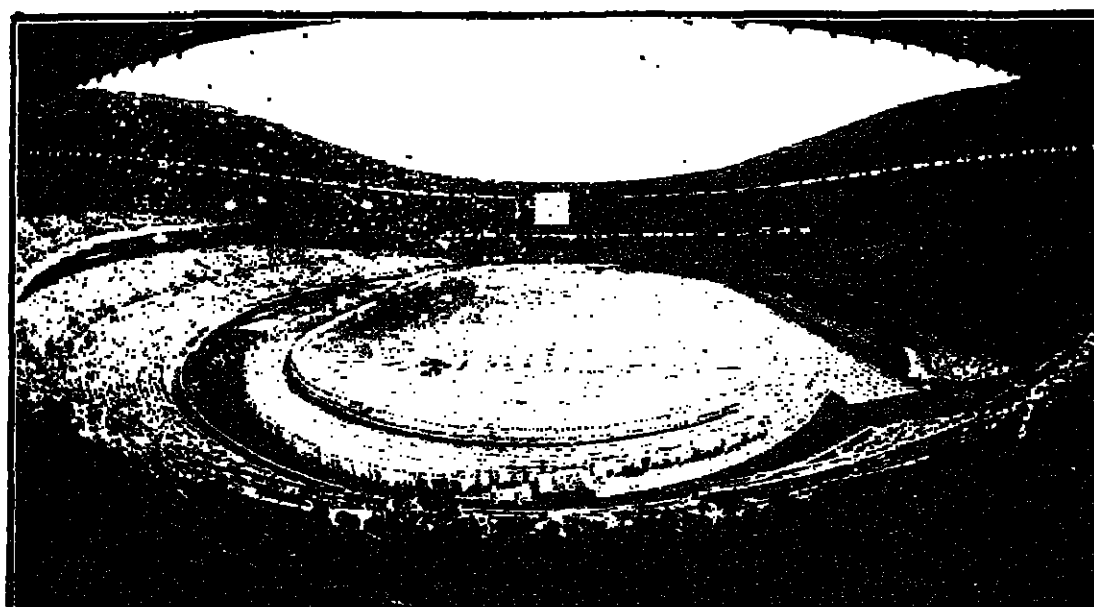
While Asians traditionally have lagged behind their Western counterparts in such sports as swimming, soccer and track and field, the games are expected to confirm Asian dominance in other arenas.

Top-caliber performances are anticipated in archery, badminton, diving, gymnastics, shooting, field hockey, table tennis, judo and volleyball.

Making its Asian debut is Taekwondo, an ancient Korean martial art in which Koreans hope to win all eight gold medals. Some 800 Korean Taekwondo practitioners showed off their skills at the opening ceremony, smashing thousands of wooden boards with their hands and feet.

Dr. Dahiyat will reshuffle the Shooting and Basketball Federations after the Asian Games, which are being held in Seoul, South Korea.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has accepted to continue as head of the Taekwondo Federation. Prince Hassan's consent to head the new federation was conveyed to Minister of Youth Dr. Eid Dahiyat, who requested the Crown Prince to head the federation. Other officials of the new Taekwondo Federation are: Mr. Issa Rimoni, Mr. Mansour Ibn Tarif, Mr. Ali Ghandour, Dr. Ahmad Bashirah, Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abu Al



Seoul's Olympic Stadium where the opening ceremonies of the 1986 Asian Games were held on Saturday (SAGOC photo)

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Terrorism casts shadow over Paris' bid to host Olympics

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PARIS — A rash of bomb attacks in Paris this month has highlighted the issue of security in the French capital's bid for the 1992 summer Olympics.

Campaign leaders, whatever their private thoughts on any adverse impact on the Paris candidature, stress in public that terrorism is also a problem for other western cities and that French security is as equipped as any to deal it.

"We are in 1986. The games take place in 1992. If France has not eliminated this scourge by then it would be very serious."

"But we will rapidly prove our ability to put an end to this leprosy which affects all democracies."

Christian Bergelin, secretary of state for youth and sports, told the newspaper Le Matin this week.

Former Olympic champion Guy Druet noted that Mexico had called in French expertise to guarantee security during this year's soccer World Cup finals and that there had been no problem in that sector.

"If terrorists want to make their presence felt during the Olympic Games they will do it just as well in Barcelona as Paris, Amsterdam or Brisbane. But they will do it with much more difficulty in Paris because of our great experience," he told Reuters in an interview.

Nonetheless, today's grim reality of bombings makes a harsh and dismal contrast to the lofty idealism which inspired French Baron Pierre de Coubertin to revive the Olympics of ancient Greece.

Coubertin's speech at the Sorbonne University in 1892 launched the modern Olympic movement, and its centenary encouraged France to make a dual bid for 1992 — seeking to stage the winter games in Albertville, in the Alpine Savoie Region, and summer games in Paris.

Druet, 110 metres hurdles champion at the 1976 Montreal Olympics who turned to politics after his athletics career ended, and Candidature Executive Committee Chairman Alain Danet have criss-crossed the globe to drum up support for Paris among International Olympic Committee (IOC) members who will decide the destinations of the 1992 games in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Oct. 17.

Paris also offers prestige settings such as the imposing Grand Palais (fencing) off the Champs-Elysees Boulevard, and the Champ De Mars, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, and Fontainebleau Country Estate (both equestrianism).

With sites for 21 of the 23 sports already available, only two major new building projects are necessary — a swimming pool complex, to be constructed at Tolbiac next to Bercy, and the main athletics stadium, at either Le Tremblay or Vincennes in the wooded eastern outskirts of the city.

The Paris campaign stresses its Olympic venues are close and easily accessible. Nothing bar the yachting (at Hyeres on the Mediterranean coast) and soccer till the final would be held further than 60 kilometres (40 miles) or an hour's journey from the Olympic village, set in the planned Bercy-Tolbiac Park on either side of the River Seine, linked by bridges.

The opening ceremony might be staged on the Champs-Elysees. International airports at Roissy and Orly and fast road, rail and metro links serve the city. Paris traffic is less dense in the holiday month of August when the games would be staged.

Athletes would be given free accommodation, board and transport, with traffic zones reserved for the Olympic family whose travel options include boats on the Seine.

The organisers expect 100,000 rooms will be available for visitors.

Druet said factors which made the Paris bid special were Coubertin's place in the Olympic movement, experience of big international events, cultural heritage which would attract the best of all the arts to the French capital at the same time as the games, technological expertise, infrastructure and security.

Albertville's winter games campaign seems to have generated more local fervour than the Paris bid, but Druet says the two are not comparable.

"On the one hand you have a regional candidature, on the other an international candidature. It's much easier to motivate a small population," he said, adding that a poll had shown 80 per cent in the Ile De France region supported the Paris effort.

"You can have a race with two candidates from the same nation at the start, but even so it's each for himself."

AMSTERDAM, Barcelona, Belgrade, Birmingham and Brisbane are Paris's rivals.

Paris, which staged the summer games in 1900 and 1924, entered the 1992 Olympic race later than most other candidates. Mayor Jacques Chirac, who now brings an extra authority to the campaign as prime minister, formally launched the bid in November, 1984.

Druet, deputy mayor in charge of sport and youth affairs, said Paris envisaged a games budget of between eight and 10 billion francs (\$1.2 to 1.5 billion). An eventual deficit of up to four billion francs (\$600 million) would be covered by the state (half) and the city and the Ile De France Region (quarter each).

"Perhaps it will be this sum or perhaps nothing at all. We have made provisional calculations with the worst hypothesis — maximum expenses and minimum receipts, more costly work than we anticipate and very low television rights revenue. In such a case we came to a deficit of four billion francs, which is completely tolerable," Druet added.

"That said, nothing prevents us from thinking the Olympic Games could be an operation which breaks even and even makes a profit, which would then benefit the international sporting movement."

Druet said attempts by rival candidates to outdo each other had raised bid promotion costs but described press estimates of 50 to 70 million francs (\$7.4 to 10 million) for the Paris effort as excessive. Cost had yet to be evaluated.

Apart from television rights, further revenue would be raised by ticket sales, an Olympic lottery, commemorative coins and stamps and marketing and sponsoring projects. The campaign is backed by a support committee of industrialists.

Half the budget has been earmarked for infrastructure and construction, though Paris is well endowed with world-famous stadiums, such as Roland Garros for tennis and the Parc Des Princes for soccer as well as the modern Bercy Sports Palace which would stage gymnastics, handball and volleyball.

Paris also offers prestige settings such as the imposing Grand Palais (fencing) off the Champs-Elysees Boulevard, and the Champ De Mars, at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, and Fontainebleau Country Estate (both equestrianism).

With sites for 21 of the 23 sports already available, only two major new building projects are necessary — a swimming pool complex, to be constructed at Tolbiac next to Bercy, and the main athletics stadium, at either Le Tremblay or Vincennes in the wooded eastern outskirts of the city.

The opening ceremony might be staged on the Champs-Elysees. International airports at Roissy and Orly and fast road, rail and metro links serve the city. Paris traffic is less dense in the holiday month of August when the games would be staged.

Athletes would be given free accommodation, board and transport, with traffic zones reserved for the Olympic family whose travel options include boats on the Seine.

The organisers expect 100,000 rooms will be available for visitors.

Druet said factors which made the Paris bid special were Coubertin's place in the Olympic movement, experience of big international events, cultural heritage which would attract the best of all the arts to the French capital at the same time as the games, technological expertise, infrastructure and security.

Nottingham beats Chelsea

LONDON (R) — Nottingham Forest remains top of the English First Division after thrashing Chelsea 6-2 Saturday in a thrilling display which lent weight to the belief that manager Brian Clough has built a team capable of winning the title.

The Midlands side scored six goals for the second week running — with Gary Birtles and Neil Webb both hitting hat-tricks — and now lead the Division by three points after Liverpool surprisingly lost 2-1 at Southampton.

Everton, third before start of play, tackled troubled Manchester United in a televised game today.

Forest, who last won the title in 1977-78, started off at Chelsea where it left off against Aston Villa last week, scoring a goal through Webb after four minutes.

But the London side came back in style, roared on by a packed, sun-baked Stamford Bridge. Scottish winger Pat Nevin equalised three minutes later and John Bumstead put them 2-1 ahead with a lovely 20-metre shot.

Forest was far from finished, however. Birtles, one of two survivors from Forest's European Cup winning sides in 1979 and 1980, levelled in the 30th minute with a fine header.

Prince Hassan heads Taekwondo Federation

By Mune'm Fakhouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has accepted to continue as head of the Taekwondo Federation. Prince Hassan's consent to head the new federation was conveyed to Minister of Youth Dr. Eid Dahiyat, who requested the Crown Prince to head the federation. Other officials of the new Taekwondo Federation are: Mr. Issa Rimoni, Mr. Mansour Ibn Tarif, Mr. Ali Ghandour, Dr. Ahmad Bashirah, Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abu Al

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GATT officials reach accord

PUNTA DEL ESTE, Uruguay (AP) — Delegates to a world trade conference said Saturday that they cleared the way for talks on reforming the rules of global commerce, following compromises on farm subsidies and service industries.

A full session of delegates to the preparatory conference of the 92-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was scheduled for later in the day to give final approval to the agenda for the new round of talks.

The talks are expected to begin next year in Geneva and last from four to seven years.

Debate continued overnight on fine points of the services question, but the negotiators said all major obstacles to holding the new round had been overcome, and that approval of the agenda seemed assured.

"All they have to do is bang the gavel," said U.S. deputy agriculture secretary, Mr. Daniel Amstutz.

Deadlocks on the issues of farm subsidies and services such as banking and insurance had persisted since the conference began Monday, but were finally broken in intensive bargaining sessions among key delegates late Friday.

"It came together suddenly, with great speed," said Paul Channon, Britain's secretary of state for trade and industry and president of the European Community's council.

Some delegates to the week-long GATT ministerial conference in this south Atlantic

pleasure. "The compromise provides us the opportunity to put everything on the table," the U.S. trade envoy said.

The agenda's text did not include any reference to a time frame for trimming subsidies — an initial demand of the United States and the Australian-led group.

"In all negotiations, you have to give in on something," said Australian Trade Minister John Dawkins.

The new round would be the eighth since GATT, the principal framework governing most world trade, was created in the late 1940s.

GATT has traditionally dealt with the export of products and commodities, but the United States, Japan and the EC led the battle to include services — including banking, insurance, telecommunications and engineering — in the new trade round.

India and Brazil led a group of 10 developing countries who

fought against that proposal, fearing overwhelming competition if they opened their service markets to wealthy countries.

The last-minute compromise on services came Friday after the wealthier countries agreed to establish forms of protection for the fledgling service industries of Third World nations.

Brazil and India had insisted that any talks on services take place outside of GATT, so that it would not be linked to trade in traditional goods.

A compromise was reached under which the topic will be included within the organization's framework but with provisions to keep it separate from goods at least temporarily.

In the Punta Del Este conference's final hours, delegates were debating other pending issues, including the U.S.-backed bid to put foreign investment and intellectual property including patents, copyrights and trademarks on the agenda.

Dollar hits lowest level against yen in 40 years

NEW YORK (R) — The dollar ended the week at its lowest level against the yen in nearly 40 years and dealers blamed the war of wills pitting the United States against West Germany and Japan.

"There's a clear political stand-off between the United States and Japan and West Germany," one dealer said.

The dollar closed in New York at 151.90 yen, only slightly above its London close of 151.70 which was the lowest the dollar has gone since the yen was revalued after the war.

The U.S. currency, battered by the West German mark on Thursday, remained under the key two-mark level Friday at 1.9860 marks. It fell to 1.9850 marks on Thursday, its lowest in 5½ years.

The latest round in the conflict came on Wednesday when U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker said that if trading partners did not agree to lower their interest rates, Washington would push the dollar lower.

The dispute centres on world trade. The United States is looking at a trade gap approaching \$200 billion a year, a large part of which is due to deficits with West

Germany and Japan. It has urged both countries to lower their domestic interest rates, which would spur their economies and thereby boost the purchase of U.S. goods.

But both countries have refused to do so because of unwanted domestic effects and they say their economies are already growing at a strong pace.

A lower dollar would tend to correct the trade imbalance because it would make U.S. goods less expensive abroad and increase the price of imported items.

Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, said Friday night the Reagan administration had no target for the dollar and would place more emphasis on the dollar's value if it saw little economic growth abroad.

"The U.S. administration is still talking the dollar down," commented one New York dealer.

Dealers said the dollar dropped sharply Friday partly because the Japanese currency has stayed relatively high against the dollar while the U.S. currency was falling elsewhere.

Iran seen preparing way for normal business ties with U.S.

WASHINGTON — Beneath its shrill anti-American rhetoric, Iran is preparing the way for the resumption of normal commercial relations with U.S. businesses.

Iran has stopped disrupting and delaying the special tribunal set up in The Hague, The Netherlands, in 1981 to resolve U.S.-Iranian business claims. For the past year, a businesslike atmosphere has prevailed there.

U.S. officials say that Tehran recently initiated direct contacts with some American companies about buying such products as test tubes, textbooks, food, medicine and spare parts. Such contacts aren't new, but now U.S.

companies are reporting that they are being approached directly by Iranians, rather than through intermediaries.

"There is a steady stream of telephone calls from American companies asking whether it's legal to do business with Iran," says Karen Saeghara, who until last month was the Iran desk officer at the Commerce Department. Since the Iranian hostage crisis, American companies haven't been permitted to sell military gear and certain high-technology items to Iran, but sales of many other goods are legal — The Wall Street Journal.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Sept. 12, '86 and ending Wednesday, Sept. 17, '86. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Industrial Development Bank	1000	1370	1.370	1.370	1.000
Petra Bank	80	184	2.230	2.230	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	2440	5428	1.970	1.950	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2440	84476	1.300	2.250	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	5686	7568	—	1.330	1.000
Housing Bank	—	—	2.100	—	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	50	104	28.250	2.080	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	1850	55202	16.700	31.500	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1341	22548	128.750	16.740	5.000
Arab Bank	4300	580470	2.460	133.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	24576	63150	0.750	2.560	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	7660	5729	—	0.720	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	1.350	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	20850	17472	0.820	1.340	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	27900	8854	1.200	0.820	1.000
National Financial Investments	3467	4160	0.530	1.200	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	710	394	0.920	0.960	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	2249	2083	1.310	0.930	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	90122	125419	—	1.310	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Jordan French Insurance	17854	45945	2.500	2.570	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	2728	1044	0.870	0.880	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1870	16843	9.500	9.000	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1250	912	0.710	0.720	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	200	194	0.970	0.970	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	1860	3069	1.650	1.650	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	1048	1331	1.270	1.270	1.000
Petra Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	1750	1278	0.720	0.730	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	500	1000	2.000	2.000	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	50029	30364	0.570	0.620	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	3530	1577	0.450	0.450	1.000
Arab Development and Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	1254	814	0.620	0.650	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	4658	932	0.700	0.700	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	5347	8182	1.520	1.530	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	100	95	0.950	0.950	1.000
Arab International Hotels	5700	1995	0.350	0.350	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	398	1706	4.200	4.300	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	7660	6330	0.780	0.780	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing, Publishing and Distributing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	3600	4197	1.160	1.170	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	3797	9078	2.360	2.410	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	4450	2487	0.550	0.560	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	2355	5582	2.380	2.370	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	5401	8724	1.640	1.620	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	776	3545	4.550	4.600	1.000
Aladdin Industries	9100	5089	0.550	0.570	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	90980	82217	0.880	0.900	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	700	686	0.990	0.980	1.000
Chemical Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	3150	1270	0.440	0.400	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	942	1448	1.420	1.460	1.000
National Steel Industries	17650	22027	1.250	1.250	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	600	428	0.710	0.730	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	1890	13383	7.090	7.110	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	3000	580	0.200	0.190	1.000
National Industries	3605	2163	0.600	0.600	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	9850	2254	0.260	0.230	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	4000	2000	0.490	0.500	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	4720	5950	1.250	1.260	1.000
Raffia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Ca.'board	850	2295	2.660	2.610	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	855	1505	1.760	1.760	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	90	1170	13.000	13.000	5.000
Jordan Brewery	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	3000	2750	1.000	0.900	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	2250	1647	0.730	0.760	1.000
Grand total	524608	1290172	—	—	—

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have all sorts of changes in personal and perhaps practical affairs today. Let influential persons know of your new material activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You now understand how a new set-up with your friends can prove advantageous. Study all these angles.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Plan any changes you want to make that will ameliorate your position both in personal and business life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Private affairs don't seem to work out right. Make a new plan with your mate and achieve happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Revise your daily routines so that you get more benefits from your efforts. Plan wisely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study how best to arrange your affairs at home and outside. Being very devoted to your mate is wise.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Whittle your imaginative ideas down to a workable level. Gain the know-how you need and be happy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Know what your responsibilities to others are and how best to discharge them. Listen to your mate's wants.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you want to solve a problem with one who is as self-opinionated as you, you will have to compromise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Find a better way to do your work so that you get rid of a source of worry. Entertain tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan time for deciding which friends you want to see in the future, but be with a bosom pal tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try not to argue about some outside affair at home. This may bring more than you bargained for.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Enlarge your vision and get into more worthwhile activities so that you can become more successful.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have every ability at seeing the practical side of any situation or project, but will have to learn that others have different ideas. Teach this child to listen to input and combine it with his, or her, own. Much success in business will occur later in life.

THE Daily Crossword by Mary Coo Whitten

ACROSS

1. Puppeter Bill
2. Fisherman
3. Rugged rock
4. Culver insect
5. Early Peruvian
6. Patriot Nathan
7. Port-au-Prince
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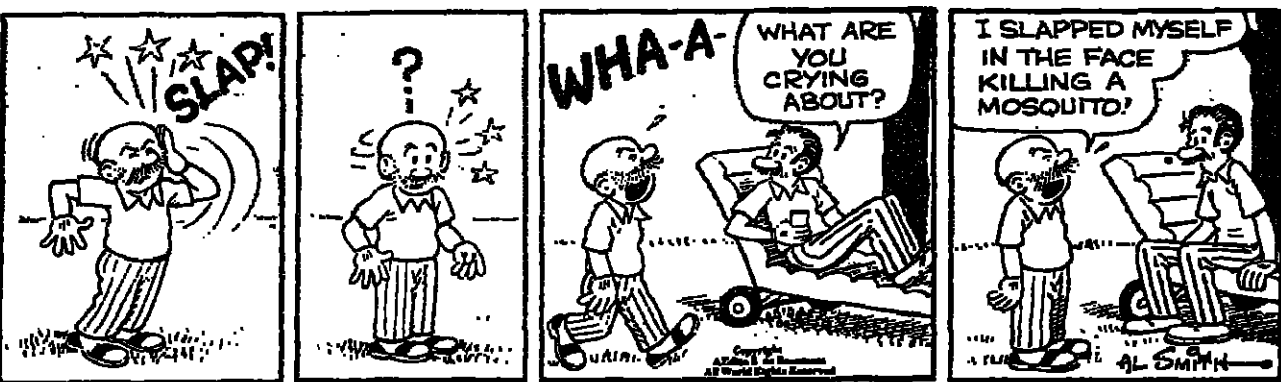
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Puppeter Bill, 2. Fisherman, 3. Rugged rock, 4. Culver insect, 5. Early Peruvian, 6. Patriot Nathan, 7. Port-au-Prince, 8. ...

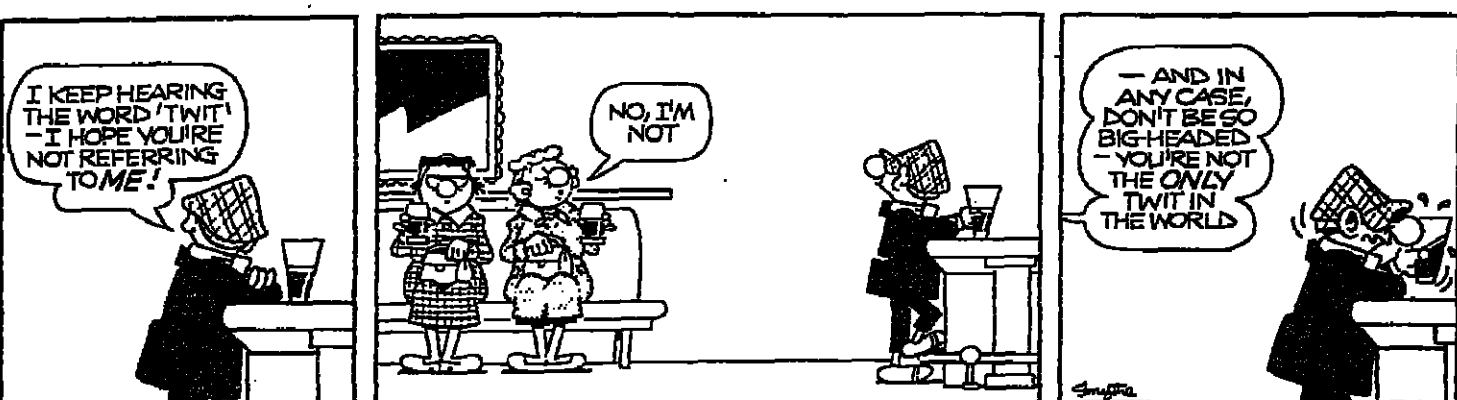
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KAWOE

ROMIN

GEDDUR

GEPPIN

See you around

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOLIO VIGIL BOBBIN GROUGH

Answer: What was Alexander Graham Bell's first words?—GOO GOO

Howe holds 'candid, open' talks with Tambo

Election fever cools in S. Africa

LONDON (AP) — Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe met Saturday with Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC), in the highest-level encounter so far between a British official and the guerrilla organisation fighting white rule in South Africa.

"It was a good, candid and open meeting," a Foreign Office statement said.

The two men talked for nearly two hours at Sir Geoffrey's country residence at Chevening south east of London.

Sir Geoffrey stressed Britain's "total opposition to the system of apartheid and our wish to see rapid fundamental but peaceful change in South Africa."

But he also "emphasised that the British government utterly rejected violence as a means of achieving change," the statement said.

It said the discussion was "frank and serious," and that Sir Geoffrey also "made it clear that the 12 member states of European Community are united in their determination to do everything possible to promote a peaceful settlement in South Africa through dialogue and a suspension of violence on all sides."

The wording suggested likely disagreement between Sir Geoffrey and Mr. Tambo, since the ANC firmly rejects demands that it disavow violence as a precondition for negotiating with Pretoria's white-led government.

Until last June, Britain had refused to have formal contact with the ANC because it espouses violence. But then, in a reversal of policy, Sir Geoffrey's deputy, Lynda Chalker, met with Mr. Tambo in London. This was seen as a gesture to the anti-apartheid lobby, at a time when pressure for punitive economic sanctions against South Africa was at a peak.

Sir Geoffrey was willing to meet with Mr. Tambo last July when the British visited Zambia on an abortive South Africa peace mission. But Britain's refusal to impose sanctions so antagonised black leaders that Mr. Tambo refused to see him.

At Saturday's meeting, Sir Geoffrey was believed to have sought to explain to Mr. Tambo the EC's decision this week to impose only limited embargoes on South Africa. Sir Geoffrey currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the EC Foreign Ministers' Commission.

Meanwhile election fever cooled in South Africa Saturday after President P.W. Botha dampened widespread speculation that he was about to call an early poll among the white minority.

"Keep on guessing, you may even get it right later," Mr. Botha said in a speech Friday night following a day of intense media anticipation that a general election date might be set.

But political observers said Mr. Botha, encouraged by an important by-election victory this week for his National Party (NP), could still call the election at another party meeting starting Sept. 29.

The 74-year-old leader hailed the by-election result in the Natal province constituency of Klipriver last Wednesday as a sign that the country was uniting.

Mr. Botha said recently that an election could probably come before the scheduled date of 1989.

but his remarks to the Transvaal congress Friday night gave no hints.

In his speech, delivered on the 100th day of a national state of emergency, he again denounced the worldwide onslaught on South African apartheid and said the government would continue to decide the pace of reform.

"The campaign against South Africa has become like a snowball that is progressively faster being rolled down a steep hill by a bunch of children," Mr. Botha said.

In a separate speech Friday, Law and Order Minister Louis Le Grange said a total of 1,776 civilians had been killed and 5,614 injured in the past two years of unrest in South Africa.

Murphy Morobe, a senior official of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front, said that beneath the surface political awareness and militancy of most blacks was increased by the emergency.

NUM to mourn mine victims

In Johannesburg the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a one-day work stoppage next month to mourn the 177 workers killed in an underground gold mine fire, and will ask its members for a national strike in a wage dispute.

General Union Mining Corp., owner of the Kinross Mine in the eastern Transvaal, scheduled a memorial service Monday at the No. 2 shaft where fumes killed 172 black miners and five whites, and injured 235.

The NUM, the largest black miners' union, said it had not been invited to participate in that memorial, but would hold its own next Wednesday in the nearby town of Secunda, 100 kilometres east of Johannesburg. In addition, the union is calling for a day of mourning on Oct. 1.

Nakasone attends opening ceremony of Asiad

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Saturday attended the opening ceremony of the Asian Games after a brief meeting with President Chun Doo-hwan.

Mr. Nakasone sat next to the presidential couple in the royal box at the Seoul Olympic Stadium to watch the ceremony.

He was not introduced and did not make an address. There was no reaction from the largely South Korean audience, although anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea had been stirred earlier this month by a controversy over remarks by a Japanese cabinet minister.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Nakasone made a courtesy call at the Blue House, the official residence of the South Korean president.

As part of the security measures, Mr. Nakasone's plane landed at a secondary airport in the southern outskirts of Seoul rather than the usual arrival point of Gimpo International Airport.

Mr. Nakasone and his party then went to the National Cemetery in Seoul, where many of the dead from several wars are buried along with a number of leading political figures and other national heroes.

From there, they went to the presidential mansion, and Blue House spokesman Lee Jong-Ryool told reporters that Mr. Nakasone thanked Mr. Chun for the invitation to attend the sports festival here, again expressed regret over the latest friction between Tokyo and Seoul, and pledged renewed efforts to further ties between the two countries.

Mr. Nakasone was to meet with Mr. Chun again Sunday for more substantive talks before returning to Tokyo.

Making his second visit to South Korea as prime minister, Mr. Nakasone came less than two weeks after he fired his education minister in a bitter controversy involving Korea.

The former minister, Masayuki Fujio, had said in a magazine interview that Korea was partly responsible for Japan's annexation of the peninsula in 1910. The annexation started a 35-year period of harsh colonial rule that has left a residue of anti-Japanese feeling among many Koreans.

Mr. Nakasone came under sharp criticism from some Koreans because of the stand taken by his cabinet member.

The newspaper reports said Mr. Chun and Mr. Nakasone were expected to take up a growing trade imbalance in Japan's favour, the improvement of the legal status of Korean residents of Japan and the transfer to Korea of Japanese technology.

1 killed, 73 hurt in U.K. rail crash

STAFFORD, England (AP) — Rail authorities Saturday were attempting to determine what caused two crowded express trains to collide between Manchester and London, killing an engineer and injuring 73 people.

From witness' accounts, it appeared that the southbound train from Liverpool to London struck the northbound London-Manchester express a glancing blow, derailling both trains as they were travelling at about 160 kilometres per hour.

The tracks of the two routes intersect at Colwich, 210 kilometres north west of London. The northbound train was believed to have been crossing the intersection when the oncoming train plowed into one of its coaches.

Police said 73 people were taken to hospital and 32 were admitted, two of them in critical condition.

Both trains left their cities at about 5 p.m. (1600 GMT), the

rush hour peak, when many weekend commuters travel home. An estimated 800 passengers were aboard the two trains.

Cyril Bleasdale, regional manager of state-owned British Rail, said modern electric lights were used for signalling at the Colwich junction. These were operated manually from a signal box about 60 metres from the crash site, he said.

Mr. Bleasdale said staff were already being questioned about what happened, and a full inquiry would begin Tuesday.

He said it was believed all the passengers were being accounted for, but the wreckage was still being searched 12 hours after the crash in case other people were trapped.

"The carriages (cars) are mangled one on top of the other. I can't believe there were not many more seriously injured or killed," said Robin Richards, Staffordshire County deputy fire chief.

"It was a horrific scene that we had to deal with," he said.

"It was just one huge concertina and it's unbelievable that more people have not lost their lives," said Vic Perrin, a fire brigade officer.

John Middleton, who lives near the crash site said, "I heard a terrific noise, like an earthquake. I rushed out of the house and saw carriages pointing up into the sky and others overturned."

Confusion over what happened and the number of casualties and passengers on the train lasted for hours, because darkness fell an hour after the crash, which occurred at the remote Colwich junction near Stafford.

British Rail first said that the two trains slammed into each other head-on, but later said they had exchanged a "glancing blow."

Firefighters using metal-cutting torches took seven hours to remove the engineer's body from his cab.

Bonn condemns killing of West German by Czech border guards

BONN (R) — West Germany Saturday condemned the fatal shooting of a West German on its territory by Czechoslovak border guards and summoned Prague's ambassador in Bonn to the Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling for the punishment of those responsible for the shooting of the West German, who has not yet been named.

It said that the man had probably been involved in an escape attempt across the heavily-guarded frontier. He was taken into Czechoslovakia for

medical treatment but died on the way to hospital.

The ministry said Prague had officially informed Bonn of the incident Friday night. Border officials from both countries had already made contact to discuss the matter.

The official Czechoslovak News Agency Ceteka reported Friday that the man was shot on West German soil when the guards opened fire during an attempt by a group of "foreign nationals" to cross the frontier.

Ceteka described the incident as regrettable and said Prague had apologised to the West German

authorities.

Informed West German sources said they believed the incident may have been related to an escape attempt by two young Poles from Czechoslovakia to the West German state of Bavaria Friday.

One Pole, escaped to the West but his companion was arrested after Czechoslovak guards fired several shots. Bavarian border police were unable to say whether the second man had been injured.

The Poles' escape bid occurred near the village of Tirschenreuth, some 200 kilometres north east of the Bavarian capital of Munich.

Europeans avoid Paris after blasts

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — The coaches of Friday's 3:53 p.m. Amsterdam-Paris express, normally bustling with hundreds of tourists looking forward to a weekend in the French capital, were nearly empty.

"Seems like a quiet run today," said a Dutch railways ticket collector at Amsterdam's central railway station shortly before the train pulled out. "Must have something to do with the bombs there."

His observations reflected a trend Western Europe, where travel agencies have seen a sudden drop in bookings for trips to Paris after the recent spate of terrorist bombings there that left eight dead and more than 150 injured.

Some travel agents have cancelled their package tours, and others reported a 40-per cent drop in advance bookings, according to an informal telephone poll of travel agencies by the Associated Press bureaus around Western Europe.

"We've suffered a 10-per cent downfall in bookings, as well as a

10-per cent increase of last-minute cancellations" for two-to-six-day trips to Paris, said Johannes Kort, manager of the Dutch branch of the French Tourist Service (FTS) travel agency, a subsidiary of the state-owned French Railways SNCF.

"It is obvious that the drop in travellers to Paris is connected with the terror there," said Kort, whose agency routinely books about 1,200 package tours a week to the French capital.

"People read the headlines and about bloodbaths in the papers, and they draw their conclusions," Kort told the AP on Friday. However, he said he expected business to pick up quickly if the terrorism abated.

"People have short memories," Kort said.

Other Dutch travel agencies polled also said they noted a significant drop in bookings and more cancellations than usual for this time of year.

"It's suddenly dried up," said Focko Mees of Holland International, The Netherlands' largest travel agency, referring to

the normally steady flow of bookings for package tours by bus and plane. He declined to give exact figures.

Tjaerborg Travel, a major Danish tour operator, said that it was cancelling all its bus and airplane tours to Paris for two weeks, starting Tuesday.

"We feel the situation in Paris is so out of control that we cannot reasonably offer safety to our customers," said Hans Anderson, Tjaerborg's sales manager.

Of this week's advance bookings for the Geneva-to-Paris high-speed train, which carries about 400 people a day, 40 per cent were cancelled, according to Roger Rouvinez, director of the Swiss agency Frantour.

And in West Germany, "many have rebooked (package tours) to cities like London and Vienna," said Horst-Egon Scholz, a spokesman for the major West German travel agency Air Tours International.

In London, travel agents estimated the drop in recent days between 10 and 20 per cent.

Pravda: U.S. uses Daniloff affair to frustrate summit

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Saturday the U.S. was using the arrest of an American correspondent in Moscow on spying charges as a pretext to frustrate a new superpower summit.

Echoing Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has publicly labelled the journalist, Nicholas Daniloff of the magazine U.S. News and World Report, as a spy, Pravda said there had been an "escalation of anti-sovietism" over the affair.

This, the Soviet paper said, was part of a pattern of behaviour by the U.S. "to frustrate a possible summit and pass the blame for it from Washington onto Moscow."

Speaking during a tour of southern Russia Friday, Mr. Gorbachev said the frustration of arms talks was "the aim of the noisy campaign over the American spy Daniloff, who was caught in the Soviet Union."

Earlier, President Reagan himself described as a spy a Soviet physicist working for the United Nations, Gennady Zakharov, who was arrested in New York a week before the U.S. reporter was seized in Moscow.

Diplomats said the decision by

Mr. Gorbachev to enter the exchanges in the wake of Reagan would make it more difficult to find a solution to the affair outside a straight swap of Daniloff for Zakharov.

Soviet officials have left little doubt that this is the outcome they prefer, although they have insisted that the two cases are not comparable since, they say, Daniloff is a spy and Zakharov was framed.

The U.S. says it also declines to link the two on the grounds, it argues, that Daniloff is innocent and has been seized only as a hostage, while Zakharov was spying.

Both men are currently free in the custody of their respective ambassadors but are confined to the areas around Moscow and New York.

Soviet sources said that if Zakharov was called in by the FBI for more questioning, Daniloff would be summoned by the KGB security police for further interrogation.

The Daniloff-Zakharov affair has been the centre of talks in Washington Friday and Saturday between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Rush for AIDS drug overwhelms U.S. agency

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. public health officials said they would release a drug which appeared to be effective against AIDS and were immediately swamped with calls from victims of the killer disease.

The Public Health Service announced Friday it would soon make available the experimental drug AZI to some AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) sufferers after tests showed it dramatically cut the death rate.

A special toll-free telephone bank capable of handling more than 1,500 calls an hour set up to handle requests was overwhelmed.

Health officials and Burroughs Wellcome, who developed the drug, plan to limit its use initially to those who match the profile of those who are now being tested with it.

Officials called AZI exciting and promising but not a cure for the disease. They also say it has unknown side effects and needs extensive further testing.

It has been tested only on a select group of patients and its impact on those with other forms of the disease is uncertain.

But clinical tests at 12 AIDS treatment centres around the country over the past year indicated it could sharply improve chances for survival for a significant number of AIDS patients.

Some two million people are estimated to have been exposed to the AIDS virus, with homosexuals, blood transfusion patients and people who inject themselves with drugs apparently most at risk.

In the United States, doctors have treated about 25,000 for the disease and so far 13,700 have died.

Officials said some 6,000 victims who had a form of pneumonia known as Pneumocystis Carinii should qualify for free doses of the drug, which is taken orally. The pneumonia affects about half AIDS patients.

In tests conducted on 282 AIDS patients who had the pneumonia, only one of 145 treated with AZI died. Among the 137 in the test group who were given Placebos, pills with no active ingredient, 16 died during the same period.

Doctors said the first patients to be given AZI will be 131 survivors who volunteered for the AZI tests and were instead given sugar pills.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve general distribution of AZI before the end of the year, making it available by prescription.

Duarte holds political rally instead of peace talks

SESORI, El Salvador (R) — President Jose Napoleon Duarte's plans for a peace dialogue with leftist guerrillas turned into a political campaign when he arrived at the site chosen for talks even though the rebels refused to attend.

Hundreds of government workers were trucked Friday into this battle-scarred town, decked with white flags and bunting to greet Duarte in what diplomats saw as a part of a campaign by the Christian Democrat government to recoup dwindling support among a war-weary population.

Mr. Duarte reiterated his government's calls for a peaceful end to fighting that has claimed more than 60,000 mainly civilian lives since the country's social and economic problems flared into civil war nearly seven years ago.

"I am waiting for you here, Mr. Shafick Handal, Mr. Joaquin Villalobos," Mr. Duarte said, addressing two of the absent guerrilla leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), a coalition of five rebel groups fighting the U.S.-backed government.

"The Salvadorean people are not asking for your unconditional surrender ... but for you to abandon your arms and abandon methods of violence," Mr. Duarte added in a speech to a crowd of some 2,000 peasants in the palm-fringed square.

His comments were punctuated by the muffled thud of artillery shells in the distance and military sources said the army was pounding rebel positions in the province of Morazan, about 20 kilometres away.

Sesori, in the province of San Miguel, had been chosen as the site for the first peace conference between the guerrillas and government since two unsuccessful meetings in 1984.

But the rebels said last Sunday they would not attend because the government had refused to withdraw its troops from Sesori as it had done before the first peace conference held in the mountain village of La Palma in 1984.

Troops of the crack Army Battalion occupied Sesori shortly after guerrillas named it as the site of the peace conference. The town lies in a region where rebels have roamed with freedom in their war against the government.

The guerrillas, concerned over the movement of their leaders from mountain strongholds in the north, said they could not guarantee security for the rebel delegation unless the government troops were withdrawn from the region.

"The people don't want the army to leave," Mr. Duarte told the crowd, adding that as commander-in-chief of the armed forces he would guarantee the

army remained in Sesori to defend the town.

Mr. Duarte said there was no longer any cause for Salvadoreans to take up arms against the government.

"The nation has changed. Now there is respect for human rights, now we are working to fortify democracy," he added.

Mr. Duarte, who came to power in 1984 promising an end to the war, held two rounds of peace talks with the guerrillas in 1984. They resulted in an impasse, with the rebels demanding power sharing and the government insisting they first lay down their arms and participate in elections.

Since then, the war has remained in stalemate but life has grown daily harder for most Salvadoreans, with inflation soaring and unemployment estimated at some 50 per cent of the work force.

FAA pushes airlines to install collision avoidance equipment

WASHINGTON (AP) — American airlines are being put on notice that if they don't move faster to get collision avoidance equipment into jetliners, the government will order the already proven technology into most large aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said Friday it will seek to institute a requirement that collision avoidance systems be placed in all commercial jetliners, though it will take several years before large numbers of planes would be equipped with the devices.

"We're going to force the issue," FAA Administrator Donald Engen told reporters, insisting that the technology "is available, usable right now."

Industry representatives, however, disagreed that the equipment is ready for use.

The controversy over so-called traffic alert and collision avoidance systems, known as T-CAS, has heated up since the Aug. 31 collision over Cerritos, California, of a small Piper aircraft and a Mexican jetliner making a routine approach to the Los Angeles airport. At least 81 people were killed.

The government and industry officials have been talking about an airborne collision avoidance system for more than 20 years.

FAA officials and industry experts say the devices — at least on test equipment — have been proven to work. They are expected to cost about \$100,000 for each jetliner, or about \$300 million to equip the commercial fleet of nearly 3,000 aircraft.

Mr. Engen said the FAA also plans to expand its requirement for small general aviation planes to be equipped with more

sophisticated transponders, which provide air traffic controllers with altitude information and locate aircraft on radar screens.

About half the country's private planes have such altitude-encoding transponders, which would be necessary for jets' collision avoidance systems to work properly. The Piper aircraft involved in the Los Angeles collision had a transponder for location, but not altitude information.

Airline industry spokesmen quickly objected to any suggestion that air carriers should be blamed for the slow pace of developing and installing collision avoidance technology, which has been the subject of two decades of government-industry research costing an estimated \$60 million.

"Any new system cannot be

introduced into airline service until it receives airworthiness approval and operational approval" from the FAA, and the agency has done neither for collision avoidance systems, said Roger Fleming of the Air Transport Association.

The airlines are not opposed to collision warning devices, Mr. Fleming said. But he argued that questions remain about their performance in commercial use.

The T-CAS system used radar and computers to track nearby aircraft. When alerted to a potential threat, it warns the pilot about 40 seconds before a potential collision and provides suggested evasive manoeuvres 15 seconds later.

The system the FAA plans to require provides only climb or descend manoeuvres to avoid



Plane returns after forgetting the luggage

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — The airliner carrying holidaymakers to the Mediterranean had just reached cruising altitude when the 100 passengers got a startling message from the pilot. "Sorry, we are returning to Birmingham because we have forgotten the luggage," they were told. The Boeing 737 was at 30,000 feet (9,000 metres) heading for Crete when ground staff at Birmingham airport discovered that they had somehow neglected to put the baggage on board. The terminal radioed the plane to come back rather than leave its passengers without a change of clothes. Airport Manager Mike Hawkins said the checks system used to prevent such mishaps had malfunctioned.

"It was not until we did our final check that we discovered the luggage was still on the ground, and the aircraft was in the air," he said. "It is the first time it has ever happened."

Man held for selling fake certificates

DHAKA (R) — Police said Saturday they had arrested a man who sold forged university certificates to Bangladeshi youths wanting to marry wealthy girls by faking their social status. They said the man, Abdul Kalam, was caught producing bogus certificates in a Dhaka suburb and would be charged with fraud, which carries a maximum seven year jail sentence.

Man held for selling fake certificates

Money forced out of elephant

YORK, Nebraska (AP) — It took several doses of mineral oil and help from the Federal Reserve system before a man got some of the money back from his elephant's unauthorised cash withdrawal. The sale of Mickey Bohannon and his 6-year-old elephant, Butch, began on Aug. 14 at the York County Fair, where Bohannon was setting up the ring in which he rents rides on Butch's back to the public. Bohannon removed his shirt to work on the ring. Butch took the shirt and removed a pack of cigarettes, a lighter, and an envelope containing \$1,000 in cash — and swallowed them. Dosing Butch with mineral oil as veterinarians suggested yielded pieces of bills, which Bohannon sent to the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C., on the advice of a local bank. The reserve used special scanning devices to determine which pieces came from which bills and sent Bohannon a check for \$760. "I want to compliment the federal government's methods," Bohannon said. "That's one thing about the federal government I'm pleased with."

Limbless thalidomide woman gives birth

MANCHESTER, England (R) — An armless, legless woman whose mother took the sedative thalidomide while pregnant has given birth to a perfect baby girl, the Independent Television network reported Friday. Janette Cooke, 24, gave birth to seven and a half pound Kelly Anne by Caesarian section in Manchester's Withington Hospital two weeks ago. Cooke, shown with the infant resting across her stomach in a hospital bed, said she and her husband, who has multiple sclerosis, were delighted by the birth. She is believed to be the world's first totally limbless thalidomide victim to give birth.

Diana appears with new hairdo

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana appeared in public Wednesday with a new hairdo featuring a 1950s-style duck-tail in the back. The 25-year-old princess showed off the new shorter, sleeker style when she toured the Young Engineer of Britain Exhibition at the Wembley Conference Centre in north London and won excellent reviews from one hairdresser, Maria Weijer, editor of Hairdressers Journal, said "many girls will want to be a clone of the new look." She said Diana's old hairstyle, which has been copied by young women around the globe, was becoming too dated and aging. But she said the new one gave the princess a "much more youthful image."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND CHAN SHARF
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KEEP IN TOUCH

Both vulnerable North deals

NORTH
♠ J 8
K J 10 7
A K 10 7
♦ 9 7 2
WEST
♠ Q 3 2
A 8 6 2
Q 8 2
♦ 8 5
EAST
♠ 6
9 5 4
J 8 5 4 3
♦ A Q J 10
SOUTH
♠ A K 10 9 7 5 4
Q 3
Void
♦ K 6 4 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
1 NT Pass 4 Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Eight of ♠

This is an age of communication—and the lack of it. High-speed computers rush messages from one part of the world to another in seconds, yet children and parents, husbands and wives, often find they are unable to communicate. And at the bridge table, keeping open lines of communication can be the key to a successful defense.

South wasted no time in getting to the best contract. When his partner showed a minimum opening bid

with no particular spade fit, South gave up all thoughts of slam and settled for the spade game.

West led the eight of clubs, and a thoughtless East would have declared his contract at trick one. He would rise with the ace of clubs and return the suit to declarer's king. After drawing two rounds of trumps, declarer would lead a low heart, intending to play the ten from dummy. When it turns out that West has the ace of hearts, and is out of clubs, the defenders can get no